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A HISTORY

OF THE

City of Williamsburgh;

N. Y.

CONTAINING

A SUCCINCT ACCOUNT OF ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT, RAPID
GROWTH AND PROSPEROUS CONDITION; WITH MANY
OTHER IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING FACTS
CONNECTED WITH THE SAME.

BY SAMUEL REYNOLDS,
Rector of the Williamsburgh Grammar School.

WILLIAMSBURGH:
PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH C. GANDAR,
156 GRAND STREET.

1852.

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A history of the city of Williamsburgh, N. Y., containing a succinct account of its early settlement, rapid growth and prosperous condition; with many other important and interesting facts connected with the same. By Samuel Reynolds ... Williamsburgh, J. C. Gandar, 1852.

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TO

HIS HONOR MAYOR BERRY,

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSBURGH;

*The first, in authority under the new Charter, this work
—A History of the City from its earliest infancy to
manhood—is inscribed, by*

Their humble servant, the Author,

SAMUEL REYNOLDS.

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P R E F A C E .

As "we are born too late to see the beginning, and die too soon to see the end of many things," History becomes necessary to supply these two defects. To rescue from oblivion the memory of former incidents, to preserve a truthful record of the earliest events connected with the name of Williamsburgh, and to give a just tribute of praise to the former patrons of our flourishing city, this Historical Sketch is produced. With considerable anxiety have we beheld the early History of Williamsburgh "trembling on the lips of narrative," and ready to drop into the tomb of forgetfulness, and posterity left in vain to search for the names and deeds of the founders of this promising city. Being, therefore, determined, if possible, to avert this threatened misfortune, we industriously set ourselves to work to gather all the fragments of our infant History that existed, and to collect all the reliable information where no records could be found. How far we have succeeded in our humble efforts, must be submitted to the consideration of our intelligent readers. Our principal aim has not been, "ornament of style or eloquence in description," but on the contrary, to present a brief and exact account of such matters relating to our city as shall be considered most worthy of preserving, and most likely to prove a valuable repository of historical and

statistical information. When it is remembered that this fair city, now so greatly advanced in population and wealth, was, not more than thirty years ago, the home of a few rustic farmers, who practised rural habits, and lived a "country life," it must be a matter of importance, as well as curiosity, to trace the rapid progress of this eventful History, and transmit the result to posterity. Let it be remembered, however, that we make no pretensions of furnishing a complete History of Williamsburgh, if such a work could be produced. We are aware that much more important matter might have been, and without doubt, at some future time will be obtained.

Such a History as this, is necessarily made up of isolated gleanings from never-ending sources. It follows, therefore, that in this choice of selection, much that is valuable and interesting may have been passed over or rejected.

Should our feeble endeavors, in this instance, to be useful to our citizens, prove in any degree satisfactory, we shall conceive ourselves to be more than amply rewarded for the labor it has cost us. For the courteous and gentlemanly manner in which many of our most respectable citizens have kindly given us much valuable information, our acknowledgments are due. We especially return them to his Hon. Mayor Berry, Esquire Aymar, Messrs. Darbee & Son, Mr. William H. Butler, Mr. John Morrell, Mr. Edwin Ferry, Mr. Paul J. Fish, Mr. J. Anderson, Mr. J. Duncan, Mr. Andrew Dickinson, and many other gentlemen.

We have deemed it expedient to devote our first chapter to a brief narrative and description of Long-Island, as being in some measure essential to the History of Williamsburgh; for, as Knickerbocker has it, "if this world had not been formed, it is more than probable that the City of New York would never have had an existence;"

so, if Long-Island had not been formed, or yet discovered, it is absolutely certain that "Williamsburgh, L. I.," would *never* have had identity or existence.

We hope hereafter to present, year after year, accompanied with the Directory, the ANNALS of Williamsburgh, and by commencing at the foundation, and laying stone by stone, a superstructure may be reared, presenting its extended proportions, if not its graceful symmetry, and architectural embellishment.

HISTORY

OF THE

City of Williamsburgh.

CHAPTER I.

WE have heard of some traditions among the Spaniards and Dutch, that, this part of the world had been visited by Europeans, before the "renowned Hudson ascended the noble river which bears his name." However, as there were found no traces of civilization, and no evidence whatever, to warrant such a supposition, we believe that none but savages ever possessed this country previous to the arrival of the English mariner Hudson.

Two hundred and forty-two years ago, the third day of September last, Hudson first saw the shores of Long Island. On the fourth of September, 1609, he sent his men on shore in a boat, who "*caught ten great Mullet a foot and a half long and a Ray as great as four men could haul into the ship.*"* Joseph W. Moulton, Esq., in his history of New York informs us, that they "found the soil of white sand and a great number of plumb trees loaded with fruit; and many of them covered with grape vines of different kinds. They also saw a great quantity of Snipe and other birds. They sailed up the great river then called Shawtemuck, when the natives crowded to the shores, on beholding so novel and exciting a spectacle. It is difficult to imagine the wonderful effect this strange

*Vide Thompson's History of Long Island.

sight produced on those savages when they beheld men so different in appearance from themselves and speaking a language, to them unmeaning and unintelligible. Such a wonderful event must have created fearful apprehensions in the minds of those "ignorant and unsophisticated Indians." The natives, who were clothed with the skins of animals, manifested no intentions of unkindness when Hudson first landed among them. *De Laet* tells us, that after their first acquaintance they frequently visited Hudson's ship, and thus intercourse and friendship were mutually preserved.

Long Island at this time had various appellations, the most current of which was "*Sewanhacky*," which signifies the island of shells.

It may not be amiss to give, briefly, a description of Long Island, which can be done as follows :

"Long Island lies at the south-eastern portion of the State of New York, and extends from about $40^{\circ} 34'$ to $41^{\circ} 10'$ North Latitude, and from $2^{\circ} 58'$ to $5^{\circ} 3'$ East Longitude, reckoned from Washington City, or $71^{\circ} 47'$ to $5^{\circ} 3'$ west from Greenwich. Its length from Fort Hamilton at the Narrows to Montauk Point is about 130 miles. Its breadth from the Narrows, as far east as the Peconic Bay, varies from 12 to 20 miles in a distance of 90 miles, widening in a space of 40 miles from Brooklyn, and then gradually lessening in width to the head of Peconic Bay. Long Island is bounded on the west partly by the Narrows and partly by New York Bay, and the East River, and partly by Long Island Sound; on the north by the Sound; on the east by the Sound and Gardiner's Bay; and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, together with the islands called the North and South Brother and Riker's Island, in the East River; Plumb Island, Great and Little Gull Island, Fisher's Island, and Gardiner's Island in the Sound, Shelter Island and Robin's Island in Peconic Bay." The area of the island has been estimated to be fifteen hundred square miles, or nine hundred and sixty thousand square acres.

On the northern part of the island the soil is loamy, on the south sand prevails, while through the middle portions

it is composed of sand or gravel, covered to the depth of several inches with mould, formed by the decomposition of vegetable matter. The soil of Kings County is equal, if not superior to any part of the Island, except that found upon the points and necks on both sides, which is extremely fertile.

The influence of the sea renders Long Island, situated as it is, more temperate than many other places of similar latitude in the interior. During the Summer season, and especially in the afternoons of July and August, the Island is cooled by a breeze from the ocean, which renders it a very desirable place for residence through that enervating part of the year. The thermometer seldom falls below zero in Winter, nor rises above 90° in Summer. The long continuance of cold in some seasons, at intervals of eight or ten years, as was the case in the Winter of 1851-'2, is thought to be attributable to the effect of large bodies of floating ice formed at the poles and being detached from the great mass are brought down by the prevailing currents towards our coast, rendering the air, while passing our latitude, much colder and the Winter much longer than usual.

In digging wells and excavating the earth for other purposes, sand and gravel, mixed with marine shells, have been found at the depth of fifty feet and more below the surface, throughout the different towns of Kings County. In Newtown, carbonated wood has been raised from the bottom of a shaft fifty feet deep. In Bushwick, the body of a tree was found lying across a well at a depth of forty-five feet. Clams and oysters were also found at the depth of sixty-seven feet, near the Narrows of New Utrecht, and also the shell of a large periwinkle was discovered very little damaged at the depth of two hundred and fifty feet. President Dwight, of Yale College, who made a tour through the Island for the purpose of examining its physical features, mentions that on the eastern border of Hempstead Plain, some workmen who were digging a well, found a log of wood three feet long and one in diameter, at the depth of one hundred and eighty feet; the exterior was decayed near an inch deep, the rest

perfectly sound. In digging a well a short time afterwards, the greater part of a tree was found at the depth of one hundred feet. The wood was put upon the fire and burnt very well. From the above facts, and many others similar, which might be adduced, we conclude that the materials of which a great portion of this Island is composed were once covered by the ocean; and that by causes which Geologists cannot definitely explain, were thrown up into their present form. That Long Island was once, through its whole extent, attached to the main land, and that some powerful agent forced the separation which is now marked by the intervention of the sound, is an hypothesis to which we shall not concede. That much of the southern part of the Island has been made by the action and reaction of the sea, and much of other parts lost or carried away by attrition, is, we think, incontestible. Within the recollection of many old inhabitants of Long Island, large portions of land have been washed away in some, and as much added in other parts. Mr. Mather estimates that at least one thousand tons of matter are daily transported from the shores of Long Island; and it is thought probable that the east end was once much larger than it is at present, while other parts of the Island are receiving greater acquisitions.

On the arrival of Europeans, the Indians were found divided into distinct tribes; each tribe having its own chief or sachem, who held supreme power in the management of public affairs, carrying on of war, &c.* The principal tribes occupying the Island with undisputed claim were about thirteen in number. It would be foreign to the design of this work, as well as uninteresting to the reader, to enter into a minute description of these several tribes, we shall therefore content ourselves by giving a passing notice of the principal one. The MONTAUK TRIBE had jurisdiction over all the northern part of the Island. The chief of this tribe was acknowledged the grand Sachem of the Island.

*Vide Thompson.

The religious opinions of the Long Island Indians are thus described by Rev. Sampson Occom, an educated Indian minister. "They believe in a plurality of Gods, and in one great and good being who controls all the rest. They likewise believe in an evil spirit, and have their paw-was or conjurors."

"When the English first commenced the settlement of Long Island," says Gen. Johnson, "the Indians annoyed them very much by the multitude of dogs they kept, which were ordinarily young wolves brought up tame, but continued of a very ravenous nature."

The reduction of the Indians was so rapid, that in 1761, they had diminished to the number of thirty-eight families from the once numerous and powerful Montauks. Of these remaining families, but very few were left after the emigration of the Rev. Sampson Occom to Oneida County, in 1783.

The lands were purchased by the whites from the chiefs of the different tribes, or head men associated with them, and from whom have descended all the titles to real estate on the Island.

The Governor of New Netherlands purchased the lands in Kings County from the natives, and subsequently disposed of them to the settlers; but most of the other lands were purchased by the settlers themselves, directly from the natives, and for which, patents of confirmation were afterwards obtained of the Governor.

Kings County, which is divided into six towns, was organized, Nov. 1, 1683, by an act which "divided the province into counties." The six towns are Bushwick, Brooklyn, Flatbush, Flatlands, New Utrecht, and Gravesend. The courts were removed in 1686 from the village of Gravesend to that of Flatbush, in pursuance of an act which had passed the year before. The court-house and jail in Flatbush, which were erected in 1792, were destroyed by fire on the 30th of November, 1832. The courts since that time have been held in the town, now city, of Brooklyn.

For the amusement, as well as edification of our readers, we submit the following agreement with one Johannis

Van Eckkellen, Schoolmaster of Flatbush, in 1682. The contrast between the Literary Institutions of Kings County at that time and the present, will serve to give a pretty adequate idea of the progress of education during the last hundred and fifty years :

Art. 1.—The school shall begin at 8 o'clock, and go out at 11 ; shall begin at 1 o'clock and end at 4. The bell shall be rung before the school begins.

Art. 2.—When school opens, one of the children shall read the morning prayer as it stands in the catechism, and close with the prayer before dinner ; and in the afternoon, the same. The evening school shall begin with the Lord's prayer, and close by singing a psalm.

Art. 3.—He shall instruct the children in the common prayers ; and the questions and answers of the catechism on Wednesdays and Saturdays, to enable them to say them better on Sunday in the church.

Art. 4.—He shall be bound to keep his school nine months in succession, from September to June, one year with another ; and shall always be present himself.

Art. 5.—He shall be chorister of the church ; ring the bell three times before service, and read a chapter of the Bible in the church between the second and third ringing of the bell ; after the third ringing, he shall read the ten commandments and the twelve articles of faith, and then set the psalm. In the afternoon, after the third ringing of the bell, he shall read a short chapter or one of the psalms of David as the congregation are assembling ; afterwards he shall again set the psalm.

Art. 6.—When the minister shall preach at Brooklyn or Utrecht, he shall be bound to read twice before the congregation from the book used for the purpose. He shall hear the children recite the questions and answers of the catechism on Sunday and instruct them.

Art. 7.—He shall provide a basin of water for the baptism for which he shall receive twelve styvers in Wampom for every baptism, from the parents or sponsors. He shall furnish bread and wine for the communion, at the charge of the church. He shall also serve as messenger for the consistories.

Art. 8.—He shall give the funeral invitations, and toll the bell ; and for which he shall receive, for persons of fifteen years of age and upwards twelve guilders : and for persons under fifteen, eight guilders ; and if he shall cross the river to New York, he shall have four guilders more.

The school money.

1st. He shall receive, for a speller or reader, three guilders a quarter; and for a writer, 4 guilders, for the day school. In the evening, four guilders for a speller or reader, and five guilders for a writer per quarter.

2d. The residue of his salary shall be four hundred guilders in wheat (of Wampom value,) deliverable at Brooklyn Ferry, with the dwelling, pasturage and meadow, appertaining to the school.

Done and agreed on in consistory, in the presence of the constable and trustees, this 8th day of October, 1682. Signed by Caspar Van Zuren and the consistory."

"I agree to the above articles, and promise to observe them.

"Johannis Van Eekkellen."

The town of Bushwick, part of which formed the village, and since the 1st of January, 1852, the city, of Williamsburgh, lies in the north-eastern extremity of Kings County, with an area of thirty-nine hundred acres, nearly the whole of which is either in a high state of cultivation, or laid out in building lots. Its contiguity to the cities of Williamsburgh and Brooklyn, and its proximity to the metropolis, render the soil highly valuable for agricultural and horticultural purposes. The name Bushwick, (*Boswyck*,) is of Dutch origin, indicating that the territory abounded in woods. The first settlements were made by the Dutch, who were joined by the Huguenots—French Protestants, driven from their native land by the persecution they suffered under Charles IX.

The town records commence about the year 1660. We take the liberty of submitting the following extract, translated by Gen. Johnson :

"February 14th, 1660, Peter Stuyvesant, Director General, and his High Council of the New Netherlands, ordain that the outside residents who dwell distant from each other, must remove and concentrate themselves within the neighboring towns, and dwell in the same, because we have war with the Indians, who have slain several of our Netherland people.

"Feb. 16th. As fourteen Frenchmen, with a Dutchman named Peter John Dewit, their interpreter, have arrived

here, and as they do not understand the Dutch language, they have been with the Director General, and requested him to cause a town plot to be laid out at a proper place ; whereupon his honor fixed upon the 19th inst. to visit the place, and fix upon a site.

"Feb. 19th. On this day the Director General, with the Fiscal, Nicarius D. Silla, and his Honor, Ser. Van Rauven, with the sworn surveyor, Jaques Corlear, came to Mispat, (Maspeth,) and have fixed upon a place between Mispat Hill and Norman's Hill, to establish a village and have laid out by survey twenty-two house lots on which dwelling houses are to be built.

"March 7th. The first house being erected near the pond, William Traphagan with his family, and Koert Mourison came to dwell in the same. Other houses were erected during the year.

"March 14th, 1661. The Director General visited the new village, when the inhabitants requested his honor to give the place a name, whereupon he named the town Boswijck (Boswyck)."

There being some defects in the municipal charter, granted by Gov. Stuyvesant, the inhabitants appointed a committee to wait upon Nicolls, the succeeding Governor, for the purpose of obtaining a new patent, wherein the boundaries of their territory should be more definitely set forth. This new patent was obtained on the 25th of October, 1667, in which the boundaries are thus described.

"Bounded with the mouth of a certain creeke or kill, called Maspeth-Kill, right over against Dominie-Hook, soe their bounds goe to David Jocham's Hook ; then stretching upon a south-east line along the said Kill, they come to Smith's Island, including the same, together with all the meadow-ground or valley thereunto belonging ; and continuing the same course, they pass along by the fence at the woodside, soe to Thomas Wandall's meadow, from thence, stretching upon a south-east by south line, along the woodland to the Kills, taking in the meadow or valley there ; then pass along near upon a south-east by south line six hundred rod into the woods ; then running behind the lots as the woodland lyes, south-west by south ; and out of the said woods, they goe again north-west, to a certain small swamp ; from thence they

run behind the New Lotts, to John the Sweede's-meadow; then over the Norman's-Kill, to the west end of his old house, from whence they goe alongst the river, till you come to the mouth of Maspeth-Kill and David Jocham's Hook, whence they first began."

There are a few families here, who can trace their pedigree as far back as the date of the above patent, and whose ancestors possessed at that time the identical lands' now in the occupation of themselves, the descendants.

At the time of the revolution, the inhabitants of Bushwick, though comparatively few in number, suffered considerably from the depredations of the enemy, who during their marauding expeditions destroyed whatever their malice or caprice suggested. The nearness and easy access of the forests of Bushwick to the garrisons of New York and Brooklyn, gave ample opportunity for taking off all the most valuable timber, which opportunity, the enemy thoroughly improved.

When the owners returned to their homes at the close of the contest, they found their woods and fences destroyed, and in several instances their buildings partially demolished. The inhabitants of Bushwick took great interest in all the movements of the revolution, and many of them were quite active in promoting the glorious result.

CHAPTER II.

As the History of Williamsburgh, rather than Bushwick, is our theme, we shall leave the farther mention of the latter and commence our investigations of the circumstances and facts connected with that of the former. To the curious and inquisitive who may wish to know *why* and *wherefore* was the name of Williamsburgh given to this place, we answer: "About the commencement of the present century, a gentleman named Richard W. Woodhull, purchased a tract of land in the vicinity of North Second-street—then called Bushwick-street—and established the first Ferry to New-York. Out of a compliment to a friend of his—Col. WILLIAMS, U. S. Engineer—he named his purchase WILLIAMSBURGH, and the ferry was called "The Williamsburgh Ferry." Soon after the whole territory from the Wallabout Bay to Bushwick Creek, or Norman's Kell, was called Williamsburgh. Previous to this, the region lying along the shore was called the Strand."

A more beautiful spot for a city could not be found on Long Island, nor in the vicinity of New-York. All locations fronting the west, as Williamsburgh does, gives, with the setting sun a "picturesque horizon," and "a zephyr of mild and balmy fragrance" conducive to the health of the body and the vigor of the mind.

Many persons express their wonder at the rapid march and increase Williamsburgh has made, but to us the wonder is that she did not unfold her arms and extend her embrace sooner; and that her increase was for the first twenty years so tardy. It is allowed by every one that New-York is more favorably situated for foreign commerce than any other city in the Western world; having a spacious bay and harbor in which any number of ships can ride safely at anchor, affording ingress and egress for the largest vessels the whole of the year. We think, therefore, that no site could have been selected for the

metropolis of America, possessing so many advantages. When we take this into consideration, together with the fact that it is much more convenient as well as economical for merchants, and business men in general, to make their residences in Williamsburgh, than in the upper part of New York city, who can wonder at our unprecedented increase and prosperity, thus intimately connected with the metropolis of the "Western world?"

We must, however, express our regret that there appears to be unnecessary delay in the regulating of several important streets running east and west. We sincerely hope the time is at hand when they will be paved, and rendered equal to our most pleasant and inviting thoroughfares. There are, however, several public conveniences, which appear to be essential to the comfort and existence of a large city, of which we are destitute.

Among these may be mentioned a *Market* and *Public Parks*, and although our maxim is "*de mortuis nil nisi bonum*," we are obliged to condemn the narrow-mindedness and "pound foolish" economy of our first "Village Fathers," who made no provision for those public indispensable conveniences, which we ought now to enjoy.

We refer not, in particular, to any one Board of Officers, much less to any individual, but implicate every Board of Trustees for such criminal neglect of the future comfort and health of the city. But the question arises in our mind, is the project of a market or of Public Parks abandoned in despair? We trow not. We know not why a suitable site for a market could not be procured in the most desirable part of the city, and a building adequate to the wants of our growing population at once erected. We are aware that to procure sufficient area for a respectable sized Park, in the most desirable part of the city, would be to incur a heavy expense on the citizens; but will those expenses grow smaller by delay? Will not the price of real estate advance, and the difficulty of obtaining such land increase with the increased delay? We cannot believe that our present officers will continue this narrow-minded policy, and longer procrastinate these

important operations, which should be promptly attended to.

With these few hints on the subject, we must leave the matter to the reflection of our intelligent readers, the good judgment of the public, and the sage action of the city fathers, hoping that by another year, we may have the pleasure of recording the erection of an extensive and elegant market, and at least one large and beautiful Public Park. We are morally certain that by that time, two or three Banks will have been successfully and permanently established, by our most wealthy and respectable citizens, and an Athenæum erected, to promote the Literary Institutions of the City. Although we are destitute of the above concomitants of a city, Williamsburgh has for the last two or three years rapidly assumed the aspect and appearance implied by that name, to which her many finely regulated streets, lofty spires, and crowded thoroughfares testify. The following graphic sketch of Williamsburgh from the pen of our esteemed literary friend, Mr. Andrew Dickinson, will serve to show the reader in what a short space of time this territory, once known as the Strand, has been metamorphosed into a populous city. We publish the sketch *verbatim* :

"The rapid growth of Williamsburgh from a few scattering farm houses to a city of forty odd thousand, is remarkable. But its greatest and healthiest growth has been within the last three or four years. For a long time neglected and despised, that beautiful strip between Newtown Creek and the Wallabout Bay was destined by the God of Nature for a thriving, beautiful city. Yet still, till within a very short time, many persons more notable for prejudice and selfishness than sagacity, were wont to speak sneeringly of its condition and future prospects. You once saw sprinkled about, helter-skelter, a few mean-looking houses, mostly after architectural models of the poorer class of Knickerbockers. These tenements stood at all points of the compass, just as the farm line might happen to run. Some of them had quite a tumble-down look. And there stood the old Dutch Church, with antiquated steeple, stooping forward with age, and covered

with dingy, weather-beaten shingles. It underwent some few years since a most surprising metamorphosis.

"Yet though the moral aspect of the town fifteen years ago was quite uninviting, trees, farms, and orchards made it look rural and attractive. In 1835, South Seventh and South Eighth streets were the only ones opened below Grand street, running from the river. The entire south side had five or six dwellings, all told. What do we see now? Long, well-built streets lighted with gas. On every hand are the marks of prosperous enterprise; and tasteful spires bristle skieward, affording a prominent landmark of a great distance. Of American cities, we are of the twentieth magnitude!

"An effort to establish a church was deemed by some prudent folks in those days of selfish economy as visionary. As a specimen of the religious destitution, services were held by a mere handful of Episcopalians, over the engine house in South Second-street for about two years, with little visible increase, which finally resulted in the building of St. Mark's Church. The Baptists held service for a long time in the same place; they now own the beautiful edifice in South Fifth. From a small congregation who met for a length of time in the Odd Fellows' Hall, sprang the tasteful Presbyterian church in South Third, and more recently, the fine and well-proportioned edifice in South Fourth. Others, equally beautiful, rapidly rose after it was ascertained that such a thing as a church could actually be built in Williamsburgh. We may now question whether Brooklyn, in proportion to populousness, has the right to be named, *par excellence*, "the city of churches."

"The establishment of Peck Slip Ferry was an era of vast importance. The first meeting for that purpose was attended by about fifty persons at the North American Hotel. After a hard struggle it was finally carried against a stout opposition by our rich, overbearing, overgrown, ugly neighbor, New York, there being, if memory serves, a majority of *one* in the Board of Aldermen, and *three* in the Assistants. From the sparse population, expensive scale, and the great financial revulsion of 1837, the ferry, in vulgar phrase, "bursted up," in about eighteen months;

and although the lease was turned over to a second party, it was only to drag out a miserable existence. Some can well remember how, for many months, they were obliged to cross the Grand-street Ferry and take a long and weary walk to the lower part of New York, or pass round to Brooklyn. Truly, those were trying times. The Grand-street Ferry, with its queer, old, rotten double boats, so extremely uncomfortable and dangerous, was for a long time the common subject of mad denunciation and merry satire. The village paper in those palmy days was filled with poetic missives and "prose run mad."

"It is but just to say that the same rhymes were applied to Fulton and Peck Slip Ferries, where the condition was almost as bad. Times have changed. Yet there is room for improvement.

"By far the most interesting historical feature of Williamsburgh, is from its proximity to the Wallabout, the thrilling scene of the famous prison ships. On the Williamsburgh bank, opposite the residence of the late B. Boerum, were buried a large number of those unfortunate young men, who miserably perished in those "ships of death." The venerable Gen. Johnson told the writer of this that he had often passed along the beach after a northeasterly storm, and skulls might be seen as numerous as pumpkins in a field. He had examined the teeth of many, and almost all were young men."

CHAPTER III.

FIRST VILLAGE CHARTER.

The village of Williamsburgh was commenced about forty years ago by a few enterprising and spirited individuals, but its increase was very slow and unpromising, until after the Grand-street Ferry was started, which gave a new impulse to the place. Where are now wide, well-regulated and handsome streets, thickly studded with elegant buildings, were then fields, orchards and gardens.

The first act of incorporation was obtained, April 14th, 1827, which proved a new era in the prosperity of Williamsburgh. The territory embraced in the first act is thus set forth, "Beginning at the bay or river, opposite to the Town of Brooklyn, and running thence to easterly along the division line between the Towns of Bushwick and Brooklyn, to the lands of Abraham A. Remsen; thence northerly by the same to a road or highway at a place called Sweed's Fly, thence by the said highway to the dwelling house, late of John Vandervoort deceased: thence in a straight line northerly, to a small ditch or creek against the meadow of John Skillman; thence by said creek to Norman's Kill; thence by the middle or centre of Norman's Kill to the East River; thence by the same, to the place of beginning."

SECOND VILLAGE CHARTER.

The present territory becoming too circumscribed for the demands of the increasing population, "An Act to extend the limits of Williamsburgh was obtained, April 18th, 1835, and also one authorising certain persons to erect, and maintain docks, in the village of Williamsburgh, was passed on the twenty-second of the same month. We here give a copy of both, believing they will be interesting to many of our readers.

"An Act to amend the act entitled "An Act to incor-

porate and vest certain powers in the Frecholders and Inhabitants of the village of Williamsburgh in the County of Kings," passed April 14, 1827, passed April 18, 1835. The people of the state of New York represented in Senate and Assembly do enact as follows :

SEC. 1. The section of the Town of Bushwick contained within the following limits, viz : beginning at the south-eastern corner of the present village of Williamsburgh, running thence south-easterly along the line that divides the town of Bushwick and the city of Brooklyn, to a turnpike road, leading from Brooklyn to Newtown and Flushing, at a point near and south-westerly of the house of Chas. DeBevoise ; running thence along the said road north-easterly to the Cross Roads ; thence northerly along the road leading to the Bushwick Church, to the Williamsburgh and Jamaica Turnpike ; thence northerly along the road passing the church and leading to Newtown bridge, about twelve hundred feet to an abrupt angle in said road turning to the east, thence westerly along about eighteen hundred feet, until it intersects the head of navigation of a branch of Bushwick Creek, thence westerly along said branch creek according to its meanderings to the main creek which is the present boundary of the said village of Williamsburgh, thence southerly along the eastern boundary line of the said village of Williamsburgh to the place of beginning shall hereafter be added to, and form a part of the village of Williamsburgh. And the said territory and the inhabitants residing therein shall be subject to all the provisions of this act, and of the act hereby amended ; and the Trustees of said village are to have the same jurisdiction, and exercise the same powers over the said territory and inhabitants as they now have and exercise, under this act hereby amended over the present territory of said village ; Provided that a piece of land occupied by the Dutch Reformed Church for public worship, and a burying ground known by the name of the Bushwick Church, shall be excepted and excluded from the limits of the said village of Williamsburgh. and the same shall continue to form a part of the said town of Bushwick.

§ 2. Nicholas Wyckoff, of Queens County, David Johnson of Kings County, and Peter Stagg, Robert Ainslie and John Leonard, of the City of New York, are hereby appointed commissioners to designate and permanently locate all the streets and roads to be hereafter laid out by the Trustees of said village, within the limits of the territory by this act added to said village bounds; and it is hereby made the duty of the said commissioners to cause within four months from the passage of this act a survey to be made of said additional territory, together with two maps thereof, exhibiting all the streets and roads decided upon by them, and after signing said maps shall cause one of them to be filed with the Clerk of the County of Kings.

§ 3. A majority of the commissioners hereby appointed shall be competent to perform the duties hereby required, and upon the filing of said maps, as hereinbefore directed it is hereby declared that the streets and roads designated thereon shall form the permanent plan for opening and laying out streets in that portion of the said village.

§ 4. All the expenses incurred in making said survey and maps, together with a reasonable compensation to said commissioners for their services, shall be a charge upon the said village, and be paid by the Trustees thereof.

§ 5. The Trustees and the other officers of said village, shall hereafter be elected on the second Tuesday of April in each year, and the next election shall be held on the second Tuesday of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, until which time the present Trustees shall hold their offices. At the said election nine Trustees shall be chosen, which number shall thereafter constitute the Board of Trustees; said Trustees are to be qualified in the same manner, and when chosen, shall possess the several powers and rights now vested in the Trustees of said village.

§ 6. The Trustees of said village shall once in each year, designate one or more newspapers printed in the County of Kings in which all notices required to be given by the act hereby amended, shall hereafter be published.

§ 7. The Trustees of said village shall have power to

appoint such number of marshals, not exceeding three, whose duty it shall be to aid the President and Magistrates of said village in preserving the public peace. Said marshals to have power only to serve all criminal process, and to hold their offices for one year. Their appointment shall be signified by a warrant under the corporate seal signed by the President and Clerk of said village.

§ 8. The Trustees and officers of said village shall hold their office until others are regularly elected or appointed, and have taken the requisite oath of office.

§ 9 The Trustees of said village shall have power to call meetings of Freeholders and taxable inhabitants of said village, at such time and place as they may think proper, by giving eight days notice thereof; and it shall be lawful for a majority of the taxable inhabitants present at such meeting, to direct a sum to be raised for purchasing a lot or lots of land in said village (the title of the same to be taken in the name of the Trustees of the village of Williamsburgh), and of erecting thereon any public buildings which may be required for the said village, or for purchasing or hiring a lot or lots of land as aforesaid with a building or buildings already erected thereon to be appropriated to the same purposes: which sum so directed to be raised, shall be assessed, levied and collected in the same manner as other monies are assessed, levied and collected in the said village for the general village purposes: and when so collected the same shall be paid into the village treasury.

§ 10. This act shall take effect from the passage thereof.

§ 11. The Legislature may at any time hereafter, alter, modify, and amend or repeal this act, or the act hereby amended.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }

Secretary's Office }

I have compared the preceding with an original act of the Legislature of this State, on file in this Office, and do certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,

Albany, April, 18th, 1835.

Deputy Secretary.

CHARTER FOR DOCKS.

An Act authorising certain persons to erect and maintain Docks in the village of Williamsburgh, County of Kings. Passed, April 22d, 1835.

The people of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. It shall be lawful for John Lorimer Graham, John Devoe, Peter Ferrier, John Downs, Reuben Withers, Daniel Jackson, Ellis Potter, John Miller, John Morrell, Lewis Sandford, Peter Wyckoff, John C. Halsey, William Lake, Thos. Lake, Richard Lake, James Guild, Silas Butler, Chas. O. Handy, William Sinclair, Charles Dickinson, James B. Taylor, Joshua Webb, John S. McKibbin, and Thomas Nicholls, respectively and their respective heirs and assigns, to erect, fill in, keep and maintain a Bulkhead, Docks, and Wharves, adjacent to the lands owned by them, or any or either of them, jointly or severally in said village of Williamsburgh, lying in the East River, and extending into said East River to a line designated upon a map of said river, marked, "Drawn February 1835, by-D. Ewen, City Surveyor, New-York," as the permanent water line of said village, along the whole front of their joint or respective pieces of land; said bulkheads, docks, and wharves, to be made firm and secure.

§ 2. The said owners and their respective heirs and assigns, shall respectively be entitled to ask, demand, sue for, and receive reasonable wharfage, dockage and cranage, from persons using the same, but the Legislature may, at any time, hereafter, regulate the rates of wharfage, dockage, and cranage, to be received by the said owners, respectively, in such manner, as shall be deemed just and reasonable.

§ 3. This Act shall not be construed to interfere with the rights of the Corporation of the city of New York.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of said owners to cause the said map of the East River, made by Daniel Ewen, City Surveyor, and upon which is designated particularly the land belonging to said owners respectively, to be filed within thirty days after the passage of this Act, with the

Commissioners of the Land Office of the County of Kings, and another copy thereof, with the Clerk of the said village of Williamsburgh.

§ 5. The outer water line marked upon said map shall be the permanent water line in front of said village, shall be made to conform to said outer water line, as marked upon said map.

§ 6. The Legislature may at any time alter or amend this Act.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
Secretary's Office. }

I have compared the preceding with an original act of the Legislature of this State, on file in this Office, and do certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,

Deputy Secretary.

Albany, April 22d, 1835.

To publish the full lists of all the village officers for each year, would not only occupy too much space in the limit of this work, but would be uninteresting to our readers. We shall therefore content ourselves with giving the names of the principal officers, viz: the Boards of Trustees.

The first Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees.—1827.

N. Waterbury, President,	Lewis Sanford, Treasurer,
Abm. Meserole, Sec.	J. Brush, Collector.
Peter C. Cornell.	D. S. Griswold, Counsel and
Thos. T. Morrell,	Clerk.
John Miller,	D. R. Dunham, Clerk.

Trustees.—1828.

J. M. Halsey, President.	Samuel D. Mills,
John Henry,	W. C. Townsend, Clerk.
John Luther,	Abm. Meserole, Treas.
James Ainslie	James Brush, Collector.

Trustees—1829.

Jas. M. Halsey, President.	John Devoe,
John Luther,	P. C. Cornell, Clerk.
John Henry,	Riley Clark, Treas.
John Morrell,	James Brush, Collector.

Trustees—1830.

Edmund Frost, President.	James Ainslie,
Lemuel Richardson,	Peter Way, Clerk.
John Eddy,	John Luther, Treas.
Jacob Berry,	P. P. Schenck, Collector.

Trustees—1831.

Edmund Frost, President.	James Ainslie,
Lemuel Richardson,	Chas. H. Davis, Clerk.
Geo. W. Pitman.	John Luther, Treas.
Samuel D. Mills,	P. P. Schenck, Collector.

Trustees—1832.

Jas. M. Halsey, President.	Schenck Way, Clerk.
John Luther,	W. J. Fish, Clerk, part of
John Henry,	year.
John Morrell,	Jacob Berry, Treas.
Richard Churchward,	

Trustees—1833.

Edmund Frost, President.	William Leaycraft,
Lemuel Richardson,	Schenck Way, Clerk,
James Ainslie,	J. L. Graham, Counsel.
John Morrell,	Jacob Berry, Treasurer.

Trustees—1834.

Edmund Frost, President.	John Eddy,
Lemuel Richardson,	Schenck Way, Clerk.
William Leaycraft,	J. L. Graham, Counsel.
John Luther,	L. Sanford, Collector.

NOTE.—In 1835 the Charter was amended, giving to the Village nine Trustees, and changing the day of election from the First Monday in November, to the Second Tuesday in April. Also, adding to the village, that part now known as the Third District.

Trustees—1836.

Wm. Leaycraft, President.	Henry Cooke,
Daniel Wood,	James Guild,
Edwin Ferry,	T. B. Clarke,
Alfred Hodges,	Schenck Way, Clerk,
R. B. Dikeman,	Rich. Leaycraft, Treas.
James Ainslie,	Alanson Ackerly, Collector.

Trustees—1837.

Edmund Frost, President,	Henry Cooke,
John Morrell,	Hiram Ross,
John Skillman,	Wm. Leaycraft,
Abm. Meserole,	Schenck Way, Clerk,
John Snyder,	Joseph Conselyea, Treas.
Lemuel Richardson,	Alanson Ackerly, Collector.
Edward Sanford, Counsel.	

Trustees—1838.

Edmund Frost, President,	David Garrett,
John Skillman,	C. L. Cooke,
John C. Minturn,	William Wheaton,
Henry Cook,	Schenck Way, Clerk.
John Wright,	Joseph Conselyea, Treas.
John Snyder,	Alanson Ackerly, Collector,
Edward Sanford, Counsel.	

Trustees—1839

J. C. Minturn,* President.	J. J. Bennett,*
John Skillman,*	Jacob Backus,§
C. L. Cooke,†	Jas. D. Sparkman,§
David Garrett,	Alanson Ackerly,§
Henry Meiggs,‡	William Golder,¶
John Cook,	Samuel Cox,¶
Thos. J. Fenwick,*	Henry Payson, Clerk.
Eusebius Hopkins,*	John Titus, Treasurer.
William Frisby,	Hiram Ross, Collector.

* Resigned before term expired. † Refused to serve. ‡ President pro tem. || Elected at special election, August 8, 1839.
 § Elected at special election, October, 24, 1839. ¶ Elected at special election, August 15, 1839.

Trustees—1840

Henry Meiggs,	John Skillman,†
William Lake,‡	John Cooke,§
William Golder,*	L. D. Cuddy,§
D. W. VanCott,*	Eusebius Hopkins,§
Hiram Ross,	G. Van Ness,†§
A. J. Conselyea,*	Henry Payson, Clerk.
Edward Neville,*	W. Conselyea, Jr., Treas.
John Titus,*	Alex. S. Tuttle, Col.

*Resigned before term expired. †Refused to serve. ‡President pro tem. ||President at organization. §Elected at special election, July 15, 1840.

Trustees—1841

John C. Minturn, President.	George Doyle,
A. B. VanCott,	Richard Berry,
J. F. Cropsey,†	Henry Meiggs,
James Fiora,	Edmund Frost,‡
L. D. Cuddy,	Noah Waterbury,
Wm. Richardson,	Henry Payson, Clerk.
P. V. Remsen,	W. Conselyea, Jr., Treas..
	W. D. Lowerre, Collector.

†Refused to serve. ‡Deceased.

Trustees—1842

John C. Minturn,	D. D. Winant,
L. D. Cuddy,	Marvin W. Fox,
Lemuel Richardson,	Nathaniel Willett,
Peter V. Remsen,	Henry Payson, Clerk.
James Noble,	Jas. N. Engle, Treas.
Robert Sealy,	W. D. Lowerre, Collector.

No Counsel elected in 1841 or '42; A. D. Soper, Esq., acted.

Trustees—1843.

John C. Minturn, President.	David Garret,
Lemuel Richardson,	Eusebius Hopkins,
Peter V. Remsen,	William D. Lowerre,
M. W. Fox,	Henry Payson, Clerk.
D. D. Winant,	Richard Berry, Treas.
William Lake,	Jeremiah Meserole, Col.

Trustees—1844.

N. Waterbury, President.	A. P. Cumings,
B. N. Disbrow,	Grahams Polley,
Robert Sealy,	Alfred Curtis,
J. A. Burdett,	Henry Payson, Clerk.
Timothy Coffin,	B. S. K. Richardson, Treas.
Isaac Sherwood,	W. S. Wiggins, Col.

Paul J. Fish, Counsel.

NOTE.—In 1844 the Village Charter, amended and revised, was adopted, under which three Trustees and one Collector were chosen for each of the Districts.

Trustees—1845.

Timothy Coffin, President.	James M. Aymar,
T. J. VanSant,	Henry Payson Clerk.
Jonathan Odell,	B. S. K. Richardson, Treas.
Grahams Polley,	C. Daniels,
James Dobbins,	R. Walsh,
John Hanford,	G. W. Baker,*
David Lindsay,	I. Henderson,
Isaiah Pitman,	P. J. Fish, Counsel.

*Declined serving.

Trustees—1846.

David Lindsay, President.	James Roper,
William Wall,	J. J. Snyder, Clerk.
Timothy Coffin,	B. S. K. Richardson, Treas.
Thomas J. Van Sant,	L. Darbee,
John Hanford,	R. Walsh,
Eusebius Hopkins,	J. Henderson,
James W. Stearns,	H. H. Stuart, Counsel.
James M. Aymar,	J. Quin, Street Inspector.

Trustees—1847.

Timothy Coffin, President.	John H. Gaus,
William Wall,	Charles W. Houghton,
Thomas J. Van Sant,	Geo. E. Baker, Clerk.
William Lake,	L. W. Ufford, Treasurer.
James Gallaudett,	W. H. Colyer,
Henry Aldworth,	Richard Walsh,
Stephen Waterman,	S. B. Terry,

D. Chichester, Street and Well and Pump Inspector.

No Attorney or Counsel chosen.

Trustees—1848.

Noah Waterbury, President.	John. H. Gaus,	
Wm. Wall,	Abel Smith,	
Stephen Waterman,	George Joy,	
W. H. Swezey,	Wm. H. Colyer,	} Collect'rs.
John S. Trott, jr.,	Richard Walsh,	
A. D. Soper,	Stephen Ryder.	
Henry McCaddin,	Levi W. Ufford, Treas.	
Geo. E. Baker, Clerk.		

Trustees—1849.

Timothy Coffin, President.	Chas W. Houghton,	
Samuel M. Meeker,	Anthony Walter,	
Wm. Bunting,	Oliver Leach,	
Francis V. Morrell,	Henry E. Ripley,	} Coll'tors.
John S. Trott, Jr.,	Richard Walsh,	
Andrew B. Hodges,	Stephen Ryder,	
Henry McCaddin,	Henry Payson, Treas.	
George E. Baker, Clerk.		

Trustees—1850.

Edmund Driggs, President.	Chas. W. Houghton,	
D. D. Winant,	Thos. Greene,	
Samuel Groves,	Henry Oltmans,	
Horatio N. Fryatt,	Henry E. Ripley,	} Coll'tors.
Chauncey A. Lay,	James Murphy,	
Daniel Reilly,	John W. Braisted,	
Harris Comstock,	Henry Payson, Treas.	
John Broach, Clerk.		

Trustees—1851.

D. D. Winant, President.	Fordyce Sylvester,	
Wm. T. Leitch,	David Lindsay,	
Daniel Barker,	John Maerz,	
Alexander Hamilton,	Ben. N. Disbrow,	} Coll'tors.
Daniel Reilly,	James Murphy,	
Harris Comstock,	Henry Cornwell,	
James Salters,	Wm. H. Colyer, Treas.	
John Broach, Clerk,		

The City Charter was drawn up by Mr. S. M. Meeker, Village Counsellor, and passed, April 1851.

The election for city officers came off in November 1851. The query, who should have the honor of becoming the first city rulers, and shaping the mind of the infant city, created much interest and rivalry. The honor of Mayor, fell upon Dr. A. J. Berry, by a large majority of votes, and certainly we know of no gentleman more competent for the responsible office. His gentlemanly bearing, courteous and affable manners, liberal education, personal knowledge of all local affairs for many years past, and political experience, render him, eminently and emphatically, the one on whom should devolve the first Mayoralty of the city of Williamsburgh. For the full list of city officers see Directory for 1852 '3.

The City Charter went into effect Jan. 1, 1852, when the old village officers, retired from their public capacity, and the newly elected city officers took their seats, with all their new honors and new responsibilities.

It is an unquestionable fact, that the Mayor and Aldermen of Williamsburgh, have greater responsibilities, more intricate business to perform, and more perplexing duties to fulfil, than the Common Council of Brooklyn, or even of New York. For, as the construction, and nice adjustment of the various parts of an elaborate piece of machinery, require more skilful management, and scientific calculations, than the application of that machinery after its perfect construction, so in like manner, does the new city organization, in all its departments and ramifications, require much more sound judgment and judicious management, than the government of a much more populous city, when experience had stamped her seal of approval on the various parts of its organization.

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CHAPTER IV.

CHURCHES.

Whatever may be the comparative vices and faults of Williamsburgh, she cannot be accused of infidelity, or even of indifference, in matters of Religion. Her numerous Church edifices and rising spires, which point to a more promising and exalted city, indicate her knowledge of, and reverence for, that "*revealed Charter*," which makes "free the consciences of men."

In Williamsburgh and Bushwick, there are thirty-two churches, and thirty church edifices. In Williamsburgh alone, there are twenty-four churches, and twenty-three church edifices, if we include Christ Church, N. B., whose congregation is almost exclusively composed of our own citizens. Many of the edifices are not only spacious and comfortable, but rich in architectural embellishment and worthy of the cause to which they are dedicated.

It was not our intention to give statistics of the Bushwick Churches, or even to introduce a mention of them in the limits of this work; yet, we think a brief sketch of the history of the first Bushwick Church, will be a matter of interest to many of our readers; and as Williamsburgh for so long a period, formed part of Bushwick, it may be deemed proper to commence with this, the first Church.

When Gov. Stuyvesant surrendered the Province of New Amsterdam, (New York,) to the English in 1664, it was provided by the 8th Article of the capitulation, that "the Dutch here shall enjoy the liberty of their consciences in Divine worship and Church discipline." How well the letter and spirit of this article was kept, our esteemed friend, Gen. Johnson, in the following translation of some of the records of this town, shall answer. The translator informs us, that Gov. Nicoll, the first English governor, communicated with Bushwick from

Fort James, October 17, 1665, informing them (the inhabitants of Bushwick) that they must unite with the neighboring towns in forming a ministry, and must jointly contribute for that purpose. The odiousness of the following proceedings by Gov. Nicoll, will be very obvious when our readers are informed, that until the Dutch Church was built in Bushwick, the people of the town were connected with the Church at Brooklyn, and the translator adds, that, "the governor knew it."

It appears that this state of things existed until the Colony was retaken by the Dutch, in 1673. We now submit a few extracts of his translations.

"Beloved and Honorable Good Friends :

"Before this time, our order has been made known to you, that the honorable ministers of this place, in turn, will preach to your people until you are able to maintain a minister yourselves. By our order, presented to you, you were required to raise the sum of one hundred and seventy-five guilders,* as your proportion of the salary; but in consideration of the trouble in your town, we have deemed it proper, under present circumstances, to reduce the sum of one hundred and seventy-five guilders, to the sum of one hundred guilders, which we deem reasonable, and against which no reasonable complaint can exist, and ought to be satisfactory; which last sum we demand for the minister's salary; therefore, we expect that measures will be adopted to collect the same, promptly, pursuant to this order; and to ensure the same, we have deemed it proper to appoint Everet Hedeman and Peter Jansen Dewit, giving them full power and authority to assess and collect that sum, having regard to the condition and circumstances of the people, and to decide what each of them shall pay, which the said persons shall collect, or cause to be collected, that is, one hundred guilders in three instalments, and pay the same over to us; the first on the last day of December next; the second, on the first day of April next, and the third, on

* A Guilder in value is thirty-eight cents.

the last day of August, next ensuing. Whereupon we remain your friend, greeting,

“RICHARD NICOLL.

“This will be delivered to Everet Hedeman and Peter Jansen Dewit, and read to the congregation.

R. N.

FORT JAMES, December 26th, 1665.”

Anno 1665, the 27th of December, the minister preached his first sermon at the house of Giesbert Tonissen, who was sent to preach by the Hon. Gov. Richard Nicoll.”

“*To the Inhabitants of Bushwick :*

BELOVED FRIENDS.—I am authorized by the Governor, to receive the salary of the minister, being one hundred guilders, which is due and now collecting in your town, pursuant to order, which I am to pay over to the requiring minister. Your friend, greeting,

C. V. RUYVEN.

NEW-YORK, January 5, 1666.”

“Anno 1666, January 13, O. S. The persons named below, have been obliged to pay to Everet Hedeman and Peter Jansen Dewit, (compelled collectors,) for the minister's salary, the sums opposite to their respective names, which was assessed upon their sowed lands.” Here the translator records the names of twenty-six persons who were assessed for the first minister's salary.

The first church was erected in this town about the beginning of the eighteenth century. It was in octagon form, with pointed roof, and surmounted with cupola. The precise date of its erection is not known, but from a receipt, still preserved, for a church bell, which bears date 1711, we presume that the building was erected but a short time prior to this date.* There being no pews in the church, the congregations procured their own seats, which were usually benches or chairs. Between 1790 and 1796, the building underwent a thorough renovation; a new roof was built, a gallery added, and the church furnished with pews. This, the first church built in

* Vide Prime's History.

Bushwick, was pulled down in 1829, and the present edifice erected in the same year.

The first pastors of this church were Messrs. Freman, Antonides, Lowe and Schoonmaker, who had the pastoral charge from 1709 to 1811, at which latter date, the Rev. John Basset, D. D., was installed pastor. In June, 1824, he was suspended from the ministry for intemperance, and died the next year.

The present incumbent, the Rev. S. H. Meeker, was ordained pastor of this church, February 27th, 1826. After four years labor, he resigned his charge, and officiated for a few months in Jersey City. He was, however, within a year from his resignation, recalled, and again assumed the charge of the congregation, where he still, with much fidelity, continues his labors. We believe the present number of communicants at this church, is over two hundred.

First Methodist Episcopal Church.—The first ecclesiastical organization in Williamsburgh, was formed about the beginning of the present century. Their first house of worship was erected in 1808, on North Second street, between Fourth and Fifth. The society having become too large for their building, the foundation of a spacious brick church was laid in 1837, in South Second street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. The church was here organized in 1838. The first Trustees were, David Garret, Henry E. Bodwell, George W. Pitman, John L. Gray, Simon Richardson, and James D. Sparkman. *Stewards*—(probably,) Henry E. Bodwell, Robert Marshal, James Noble, Wm. T. Hendricksen and John B. Keys. The *Preachers*, in 1838, were Richard Seaman and James Rawson; in 1839, William Thatcher and James Rawson. (The deed obtained in 1838. The church edifice erected in 1839.) The Rev. DANIEL OSTRANDER, Presiding Elder.

The number of communicants at that time is supposed to have been about 50; the progress of the church so increasing, that three churches have colonized from it, which are in a prosperous condition, while the original congregation usually fills the edifice. Present number of

communicants, about 380 ; average Sunday A. M. congregation, about 700.

OFFICERS, 1851.--*Trustees*—Edmund Driggs, Timothy Coffin, Samuel Cox, Ensign Driggs, Edward Killington, John Delaplaine, Francis A. Casilear, Frederick Dobbs, and William J. Pease.

Stewards---Samuel Cox, George Higgins, James W. Tice, Francis A. Casilear, Joseph H. Vandewater, Daniel Powell, and Wm. J. Pease. *Leaders*---Edward Killington, George Higgins, Samuel Cox, Timothy Coffin, Ensign Driggs, Edmund Driggs, Wm. H. Butler, Wm. Crissy, Valentine Flaglor, and William J. Pease. *Local Preachers*. Joseph Hodgson, William Lee. *Pastor*, Rev. W. F. COLLINS. *Presiding Elder*, Rev. Laban Clarke.

Average attendance of Sunday School, 381. *Superintendent*, Samuel Cox. *Assistant Superintendents*, William Crissy and Lavinia Giles. *Secretaries*, Joseph Ford and Francis A. Duncan. *Librarians*, Charles W. Cheshire and William E. Duncan.

The second ecclesiastical organization was the *Reformed Protestant Dutch Church*.---The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Williamsburgh, located corner of Fourth and South Second streets, was organized in 1828, by the ordination of Peter Wyckoff and Peter Meserole as Elders, and Abraham Boerum and Abraham Meserole as Deacons. The precise number of communicants at the date of the organization is not known. It was, however, small, being composed chiefly of those who had hitherto been connected with the Reformed Dutch Church of Bushwick. The edifice in which the new church worshipped, was completed in 1828, and was speedily occupied by the increasing population of the village. As that population multiplied in numbers and in wants, new organizations succeeded, each of which reduced for a time the original congregation of this Church. The Rev. James Demarest, M. D., was the first pastor ; he labored here about ten years, and was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. H. Van Doren, who continued Pastor for about an equal period. In 1818, the church edifice was enlarged, modernized, and thoroughly renovated ; and in the autumn of 1819, Rev. E.

S. Porter, the present pastor, was invited to take charge of this Church.

The number of communicants in 1851, was about 165—the average attendance on Sabbath, 450.

The officers, 1851, were Henry McKinstry, Samuel Groves, William Ferris, and Davis Johnson, *Elders*; J. S. Burr, A. S. Ely, Robert Smith and William Meserole, *Deacons*.

Owing to the increasing wants of the congregation, additional pews have lately been placed within the building.

The number of Sabbath School scholars, is 130. The school has a large library, to which \$90 worth of new books has been recently added. Wm. Ferris is Superintendent, aided by an efficient corps of teachers.

The third ecclesiastical organization was the *Methodist Protestant Church*—This Church, which is located in Grand street, near Fifth, was organized in 1832, by a secession of about thirty-five members from the Methodist Episcopal Church. A small, but comfortable edifice was erected in the same year, which was rebuilt of brick in 1850. First Board of Trustees, Frederick Dickerman, John Snyder, Benjamin Doxey, Peter Merrit and Stephen Baker. The number of communicants at the time of organization, was 20; the recent number, 72. Average of Sunday congregation, about 250. Trustees, 1851, David C. Jordon, sen., David C. Jordon, jr., John Snyder, Pierre A. Decevee, George Miller, William Ackerly, William Doxey, George Mannering, Joseph Dickerman. The Sunday School numbers 94; P. A. Decevee, Superintendent. WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, Pastor.

St. Mark's Church.—Located corner of Fourth and South Fifth streets. This is the oldest Episcopal parish in Williamsburgh. The congregation was formed under the labors of the Rev. Wm. Morris, present Rector of Trinity School, New York. There were at that time about four communicants. The parish was duly organized and received into the Convention, in the year 1837. The Rev. Mr. M. officiated until Easter, 1848, when, after eighteen months of faithful missionary labor, without stipend, he

resigned, in order that the parish might obtain the services of a clergyman who could reside among them. The Rev. SAMUEL C. DAVIS was then called to the Rectorship. At this time there were twelve communicants. During his ministry, a brick chapel was erected in the rear of the present church. In the following year, the Rev. Mr. D. resigned, and in October 1839, the present incumbent, the Rev. S. M. HASKINS, was called to the Rectorship. At this time there were about eighteen communicants, and a Sunday School of thirty scholars and six teachers. During the ministry of the present Rector, a stone church has been erected, and the congregation has steadily increased. There were in 1851 about 175 communicants. The Sunday School numbers about 120 scholars and 13 teachers, of which the Rector is Superintendent.

Officers of the Church, 1851: Rector, S. M. HASKINS; Wardens, Ephraim Cooke, Octavius Longworth; Vestrymen, J. M. Matthews, T. A. Demill, T. Irwin, H. N. Fryatt, Wm. L. Haskins, D. Longworth, O. Hutchinson, Floyd Smith, Jr.

The First Baptist Church.—This Church was constituted April 14, 1839, under the name of the "Williamsburgh Bethel Independent Baptist Church." The name was changed May 11, 1846, to the "First Baptist Church of Williamsburgh." The place of worship is located on the south-east corner of Fifth and South Fifth streets. It is a Gothic edifice, with two spires. The walls are brick, covered with mastic, in imitation of brown stone. It is neatly and handsomely finished, both on the exterior and in the interior, and will accommodate a congregation of 800 to 900.

It was constituted with fourteen members. Rev. JOHN JONES was the first Pastor; David K. Stevens, *Deacon*; Robert Fisher and John Cheeney, *Trustees*; and John R. Adams, *Clerk*. During the first three years of its history, the progress of the church was very slow, and it was difficult to sustain the interest. Since then it has been steadily increasing.

The changes of Pastors have been as follows: Rev. John Jones, from April 18, 1839, to November 19, 1839;

Rev. C. F. Frey, from May 13, 1840, to March 20, 1841; Rev. L. Muzzy, from September 12, 1841, to November 8, 1843; Rev. Theophilus Jones officiated from December 13, 1843, to March 26, 1844; Rev. Alanson P. Mason, from May 19, 1844, to November 1, 1849; Rev. Morgan J. Rhees, commenced July 1850. John Westervelt, *Clerk*.

The number of members, April 1st, 1851, was 276, and the average congregation on the Sabbath, is between 500 and 600. The officers of the church are, Rev. MORGAN J. RHEES, *Pastor*; Frederick D. Tucker, William M. McCutchen, H'y P. Freeman, John B. Coleman, *Deacons*; Charles W. Houghton, Henry P. Freeman, Richard J. Bradford, George Bryant, Benjamin T. Jessup, Thomas J. Van Sant, John B. Coleman, *Trustees*.

The average attendance at the Sabbath School is about 200 scholars; Henry P. Freeman, *Superintendent*; John Westervelt, *Assistant Superintendent*; Joseph H. Adams, *Secretary*; William G. McCutchen, John E. Rhees, *Librarian*.

Holy Trinity Church (R. C.)—This church was built in Montrose avenue, near Ewen street, for the German Catholics in the "*Dutch Village*," of whom there is a large population, and was organized in July 1841. The number of communicants at that time was about 200, which number has increased to 6000. The Sunday School numbers about 200 scholars. The Sunday morning congregations—which meet for two services every Sunday morning—each average about 900. Two hundred and fifty were baptized the past year, and fifty-four married. JOHN RAFFEINER, *Priest*.

The First Presbyterian Church, in South Fourth street, corner of Sixth.—This church was organized in May 1842, and consisted of fifteen members. It was, as its name imports, the first Presbyterian church established in this city, and has received since its organization, two hundred and eighty-two members.

There are two Sabbath Schools connected with the church—one, which is under the superintendence of George W. Edwards, and meets in the room over the

Lecture Room of the Church—the other, which is under the care of John Horn, and meets in a school room in North Third street, near Second.

Services are held in the church on the Sabbath, in the morning, afternoon, and evening. The meeting for prayer is held on Tuesday evening, in the Lecture Room, and the lecture on Friday evening in the same place.

The officers of the church are: John Horn, Henry Wilson, Paul J. Fish, James Chase, Simeon Hyde, and William Hammel, *Elders*; Hiram Eaton, and Charles F. Tuttle, *Deacons*; Charles F. Tuttle, Paul J. Fish, Moses J. Stone, George W. Edwards, James S. Bailey, James Chase, John W. Brown, O. C. Brown, and Henry Wilson, *Trustees*. JAMES W. McLANE, *Pastor*.

First Congregational Church.—This Church, which was organized May 28th, 1843, principally of the first secession from the Presbyterian church. In the same year was erected a brick edifice, on the corner of South Third and Eleventh streets. The Rev. S. S. Jocelyn took the pastoral charge at its first organization, in which relation he still remains. First *Deacons*, James Warner, Samuel Wilde and Henry Davis. First number of communicants, 8; present number, 27. *Deacons*, 1851, were James Warner, Samuel Wilde, and Henry Davis. Sabbath School, 50 scholars. Sabbath School Superintendent, Jas. H. Warner.

The seats of this church are free. Caste, on account of complexion, in this church, not allowed. Slaveholders and their apologists not fellowshiped, nor those who sell or use intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

The Presbyterian Church.—Located on South Third street, corner of Fifth. "The Presbyterian Church of Williamsburgh," Old School, was organized April 19th, 1844. Officers then—*Elders*, Henry Payson, Rufus Belden, and Wheeler V. Nichols. *Trustees*, Rufus Belden, W. V. Nichols, Thomas N. Ayres, A. P. Cummings, Thomas Pollock, B. H. Howell, Edwin Ferry, John Miller, Jr., Levi W. Ufford. Number of communicants then, 27.

The Rev. P. E. Stevenson received a unanimous call to the pastoral charge of this Church, in 1844, and was

installed the next year. He was dismissed in 1850, when the Rev. J. D. Wells, the present pastor, received the charge.

There have been 205 members received into the church, up to the present time ; and a church edifice of brick, 75 by 62 feet, has been erected, and will be free from debt, with the favor of Providence, before the commencement of the summer. The building was finished May, 1846. Value of church property, \$20,000. Present number of communicants, 158.

Officers, 1851, were: Elders, Henry Payson, W. V. Nichols, J. Hamilton, A. P. Cummings, G. B. Hubbell. Deacons, Sylvester M. Beard, Horace Thayer, David B. Hunt. Trustees, A. P. Cummings, E. Ferry, H. C. Boswell, B. H. Howell, R. Warneck, S. M. Beard, J. A. Burr.

They regard their Sabbath School with very special interest. The average attendance of scholars on all the Sabbaths of last year, was 202, and of teachers, 33. The highest average for any entire month was 215 ; and the largest attendance on any one Sabbath, 264.

St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, (situated on the corner of Union avenue and South Second street,) was built during the Autumn of 1851.

The congregation was first collected in Franklin Hall, by the Rev. S. M. Haskins, Rector of St. Mark's Church, in the year 1844. In the year 1846, he was instrumental in securing the services of Rev. William Walsh, who labored here, in connexion with the congregation just then started, at Maspeth ; the congregation of St. Paul's, worshipped during his administration, in an upper room on the corner of Grand street and Graham avenue.

In the year 1847, as Mr. Walsh was called to the Rectorship of the church in Maspeth, where they required the whole of his services, the Rev. George W. Fash assumed the pastoral charge of the congregation ; and under his direction the church was organized under the corporate name of "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's Church, Williamsburgh," on the 8th day of May, 1848, and the following vestryman were elected :

George Hogg, Richard Seeley, *Wardens*; Frederick A. Lawrence, Samuel Sutton, George Calloway, Thomas Pearsall, James Henry, Robert Thomas, Joseph Stratton, Thomas White, *Vestrymen*.

On the first of May, 1850, the congregation returned to worship in Franklin Hall, where services were continued until the first of August, 1851. During the year 1850, the vestry purchased two lots on the corner of Union avenue and South Second street, where the church edifice now stands.

On the 10th of March, 1851, the Rev. George W. Fash departed this life, after a short but severe illness, and the congregation was called to mourn the loss of one who had endeared himself to all by his amiable deportment, and untiring labors to advance the interests of his parish. He rests in peace!

On the 30th of April, 1851, the Rev. Henry Floy Roberts, was elected Rector of the parish, and commenced his labors on the Sunday after Ascension, June 1st, 1851.

The number of communicants in connexion with the parish, at the time of the death of Mr. Fash, was stated to be 43, and since then, there have been eighteen others added to the number.

First Universalist Church and Society.—The house of worship of the First Universalist Church and Society, is situated on Fourth street, at the corner of South-Third. It is a plain, but neat and substantial brick edifice, the interior being tastefully painted, in fresco.

The Society was established in June, 1845; but the Church organization was not completed till October, 1845, when 19 communicants enrolled themselves; the Rev. HENRY LYON being the Pastor, and Messrs. George Ricard and Joseph C. Stanley being Deacons. The membership of the Church has moderately, but steadily increased. The relation of Rev. Mr. Lyon to the Church and Society closed in July, 1849, from which date, to the first of December of the same year, the Pastorship was vacant. At the latter date, the Rev. D. K. Lee assumed the Pastoral office. The present Deacons are, Messrs. George Ricard and James Hall.

The original Trustees of the Society were George Ricard, William B. Miles, Joseph C. Stanley, Milton Woolley, Amos Smith, Theophilus W. Smith, and William Dillingham. The present Trustees, are George Ricard, Amos Smith, William Dillingham, William E. Bailey, Daniel Hawkins, William Bunting, and G. L. Demarest.

The morning attendance is generally from 200 to 250. No attempt has been made to ascertain, with any exactness, the number present on the various Sabbaths of the year; but those numbers probably approach the average. They are frequently exceeded.

The Universalist Sunday School was commenced on the 13th of April, 1845, with 18 scholars, under the superintendence of G. L. DEMAREST, who has, to the present time, continued in charge of the School. The number now connected with it, is 130. Rev. DAY K. LEE, *Pastor*.

Second Methodist Episcopal Church.—This Church, which is located corner of Grand and Ewen streets, was organized September 4th 1845. The first Board of Trustees were Lemuel Richardson, Daniel Maujer, John F. Luther, Robert G. Thursby, Isaac Henderson, and Charles Maujer. The number of communicants, at that time, was 10.

The corner stone of the Church edifice, which is a very neat Gothic building, and an ornament to the Third Ward, was laid December 4th, 1845. The Church was dedicated to the service of Almighty God, November 26th, 1846.

The present number of communicants, 1851, is 130. The Congregation have gradually increased, so that the Church is now well filled.

Regular services are held three times on the Sabbath, to wit:—At 10 1-2 A. M., and at 3 and 7 1-2 P. M.; and also on Wednesday evening, in the Lecture Room. Rev. W. K. STOPFORD was the first regular Pastor of the Church. He received his appointment at the Conference of 1846. He was succeeded, in 1848, by the Rev. J. J. MATTHIAS. Mr. Matthias was succeeded, in 1850, by the present Pas-

tor, Rev. W. C. HOYT. The Parsonage is No. 475 Grand street.

There is connected with the Church a large and flourishing Sabbath School. Two sessions are held each Sabbath, at 9 A. M., and at 2 P. M. WILLIAM A. FITCH and ELIZA CRAWFORD, Superintendents. Connected with the School, and forming part of it, are two Bible Classes—one composed of girls, and conducted by JULIA M. FITCH; the other of boys, and conducted by DANIEL MAUJER. The School is well supplied with the "Sunday School Advocate," and has a Library of between 300 and 400 well selected volumes.

Christ Church North Brooklyn.—This Church which is located on Bedford Avenue, a few rods outside of Williamsburgh limits, is attended almost exclusively by residents of our own city. The parish was organized as "Christ Church, Williamsburgh," in 1846. The services for nearly a year, were held in the Reformed Dutch consistory room, Fourth street. The Church was without the services of a Pastor until September, in the above-named year, when the Rev. CHAS. REYNOLDS, the present incumbent, received and accepted a unanimous call to the Parish. The number of communicants at that time was 13.

Within four months from the Rector's entrance upon his duties, a small, yet very neat edifice was erected on the south-east corner of South Sixth and Fifth streets. This edifice being too small for the congregation in the Spring of 1849, and an eligible plot of ground on Bedford avenue, being proffered to the Vestry by the Messrs. Jacob and B. B. Boerum, the Parish of "Christ Church, Williamsburgh," was dissolved, and at the same meeting, that of "Christ Church, North Brooklyn," organized. The corner stone of the present building was laid on Ascension day, 1849, and the church opened for divine service on the last Sunday in the following September. A subsequent enlargement was made during last Summer.

The number of communicants in 1851, was 90. The Sunday School very flourishing. Its sessions are held in

the "Grammar School Building," corner of Fourth and South Ninth streets. Samuel Reynolds, Superintendent.

Vestry for 1851: CHAS. REYNOLDS, *Rector*; Samuel Pim, George Bunce, *Wardens*; Rich'd Ten Eyck, Jas. H. Keely, A. J. Berry, M. D., Thomas L. Blackwell, (vacancy), Geo. Jardine, W. L. Gilroy, Samuel Godwin, *Vestrymen*.

German Evangelical Church.—This Church, corner of Graham avenue and Wyckoff street, was incorporated under the above name, July 25th, 1847. In 1847, the number of communicants was 90. In 1850, the number of communicants was 160. Average attendance, 320. On Easter, Whit-Sunday, and Christmas, 450. Average attendance of Sabbath School, 90 to 100.

Officers of the Church, in 1847, were—*Elders*, George Beck, Charles Maerts, James Weisshaan. *Deacons*, David Klink, C. Herrschaft, George Goertz. *Pastor*, Rev. BENJAMIN LOUIS SCHWARTZ.

Officers, 1851, were—*Elders*, Balthazar Noll, Frederick Busch, Charles Schmidt. *Deacons*, Frederick Scheiman, Henry Wiehe, Christian Schaible. *Pastor*, Rev. JOHN HENRY MENGERT. *Superintendent of Sabbath School*, Frederick Busch.

In November, 1848, the Rev. Christian Frederick Hermann Beusel, succeeded Mr. Schwartz, he having accepted a call to Boston. Mr. Beusel died in August, 1849, and was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Koehler, in December, the same year. In July, 1850, Mr. Koehler, dissolved his connection with the congregation, and in August, the Rev. JOHN H. MENGERT was elected *Pastor* of the congregation.

St. Peter and St. Paul's Church. (R. C.)—The Roman Catholic Church, situated on Second street, between South 2d and South 3d streets, was dedicated to the worship of God, under the patronage of Saints Peter and Paul, on the 7th of May, 1848. It numbered over 3,000 members at the time of its dedication. The estimate, 1851, was six thousand. There has been no change of Pastors. Rev. S. MALONE is, and has been the Pastor

from the beginning. Number of children in attendance at Sunday School, 600.

The Boys have over twenty young men, who attend to their spiritual instruction, and the girls are not wanting in young ladies, who devote their best energies to their advantage.

Calvary Free Church.—This Church which was commenced by the Rev. Chas. Reynolds, Rector of Christ Church, to meet the spiritual wants of the Second District, was by him organized Jan. 23, 1849. The services are at present held in "Odd Fellows' Hall, Third street, corner of North First, but they expect soon to remove into their new church edifice, which is in course of erection, in North Fifth street, near Fifth. The building when finished, will be an ornament to the Second Ward, and a great convenience to the Episcopalians residing in the northern part of the city. The first officers were, W. G. Dunn and J. E. Jackson, Wardens; J. J. Townsend, R. S. Pereira, John Seward, Benj. F. Dunn, J. H. Simmons, Edward Hore, Andrew Dickinson and Archibald Douglass, Vestrymen. Number of communicants at organization, 5; present number, 26. Present officers, 1851, are Wm. G. Dunn and Wm. H. Hickcox, Wardens: J. K. Gittens, John Seward, J. H. Simmons, J. H. Smith, Samuel Tilley, — Myers, Jos. Werneken, P. Sexton, Vestrymen. Wm. G. Dunn, Superintendent of Sunday School; average attendance of scholars, 50. Rector, Rev. MR. TIMLOW.

North Fifth Street M. E. Church.—This Church was organised April 1849. The edifice is a substantial brick building, located in North Fifth street, near Fourth. The first officers were, David H. Betts, Henry O. Austin, Richard White, John C. Briggs, Wm. Johnson, John Cox, William P. Coleman, Wm. Butler, and Henry A. Bodwell. The number of communicants at that time was 43. The church has increased in membership to 80, and the congregation has more than doubled. The present officers, 1851, are, Richard White, D. B. Betts, J. C. Briggs, H. O. Austin, Robert Bensch, Wm. Johnson, J. Cox, C. W. Matthews and Oliver Leech. The Sunday School numbers

about 120. William Johnson and Lucy W. Briggs, Superintendents. Rev. S. MEREDITH, *Pastor*.

Third Methodist Episcopal Church.—This Church was "colonized" by the first M. E. Church, and organized, May 6th, 1839. This church is located on the corner of Fifth and South Fifth streets. The Trustees at the time of organization were, James D. Sparkman, Nathaniel Briggs, Dr. S. Wade, Thomas Lewis, Wm. Y. Hemmenway, Gilbert Potter, Wm. Morgan, George W. Smith, and George D. Hubbard. Number of communicants at the time of organization, 37; at present time, 1851, is 150. Attendance Sunday School—No. of scholars, 150; average, 130.

Chief officers—Daniel Barker and N. Briggs, *Superintendents*; Sam'l W. Truslow, *Secretary*; John Truslow, *Librarian*. E. L. JANES, *Pastor*.

Reformed Scotch Presbyterian Church.—Public worship is held every Lord's day, in the large building corner of North First and Ninth streets, at 10½ A. M., 3½, and 7½ P. M. Sabbath School at 9 A. M. and 2 P. M. This Church was organized on the 11th of April, 1850. It then consisted of 23 members; its pastor was ordained and installed on the 6th of May in the same year. Little more than a year has elapsed, (1851,) since its organization, and now it numbers nearly 100 members.

This Church is precisely the same as that established by John Knox in Scotland, in A. D. 1560; and also as that which was so severely persecuted in Scotland between 1660 and 1689. It bears amicable relations to the Free Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in England, the General Assembly in Ireland, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The Reformed Presbyterian Church is the only American Church which fully agrees in doctrine and worship with the Scottish and Irish Presbyterian General Assemblies. Rev. J. B. FINLAY, Ph. D., *Pastor*.

New England Congregational Church and Society.—This Church and Society worships in "Central Hall," which is located on the corner of Fifth and South First

streets. It was organized, May 6th, 1851, by electing as *Trustees*, Messrs. David H. Fitch. Robert Carter, J. L. Moore, E. P. Lettles, J. D. Holbrook, and J. Buxton, jr. *Treasurer*, D. H. Fitch; *Secretary*, Charles J. Buxton. Rev. THOMAS K. BEECHER, *Pastor*. The Society has increased greatly since its organization, and will, without doubt, soon erect a church edifice suitable to its wants.

Besides the above church organizations, there are four colored congregations, the one, Episcopal, and the other three, Methodist.

The African M. E. Church, (Zion,) was organized in 1835; at first they worshipped in the old Methodist church, but of late in a small frame building, in North Second street, above Union avenue.

The Asbury M. E. Church worships in a small building in North Seventh, near Sixth street.

Bethel M. E. Church, is located in Frost near Lorimer street.

St. James' Church, (Episcopal,) was commenced in 1846. This congregation worships in a small building in South Third street, near Ninth. Rector, Rev. Samuel V. Berry.

CHAPTER V.

LITERATURE.

It is gratifying to know that our young City is not lacking in literary talent,—in men who labor for the enlightenment and refinement of mankind.

We believe that Williamsburgh possesses as much, if not more, theological, literary, and oratorical talent as any other city of its population in the "*Western World*." For the literary ability let the publications speak for themselves.

We shall not attempt to notice the different publications in the order of their respective dates, much less according to their talent and merit, but shall notice them as they occur to our mind.

"A History of Long Island, from its first settlement by Europeans, to the Year 1845, with special reference to its Ecclesiastical Concerns," was written by Mr. Nathaniel S. Prime, and published in 1845. Mr. Prime has condensed a large amount of interesting matter in this History, both civil and ecclesiastical. He has given the reader a general outline of the physical features, civil divisions, and progressive improvement of all parts of the Island. It is probably the most elaborate work ever written in Williamsburgh, containing, as it does, more than four hundred pages.

The following publications appeared in their respective dates, from the pen of Mr. Andrew Dickinson. Mr. D. is an interesting and able writer; his poetical talents are of no ordinary kind, as all who have read his Poems, as well as the numerous fugitive pieces he has written on numberless occasions, are aware. Mr. Dickinson not only excels as a poet, but his last work proves him to be a chaste and able prose writer.

In the year 1845 appeared a very neat volume, of one hundred and eight pages, with a fine engraving of

the entrance to Greenwood, as it was in 1844. The volume was entitled "The City of the Dead, and Other Poems. By Andrew Dickinson." Mr. D. was, for several years, a correspondent of various literary journals, and his fugitives, after floating about on the surface of periodical literature, were collected and published. The principal piece, and the one which gives title to the collection, is a description of that beautiful Necropolis, Greenwood—not a topographical description, but the thoughts and meditations which naturally arise in reflecting, meditative minds. A vein of true philosophy runs through this poem, and, indeed, in most of them, is prominent the grand idea of happiness beyond the grave. The work is spoken of by the press as possessing the higher attributes of true poetry. One literary journal, of a high order, speaks of their simplicity and freedom from affectation and effort, which constitute no ordinary charm in these days when the stilted and the unintelligible are so much courted. Thousands of lines, which, by the means of inflated and pompous diction, and the *false pretences* of versifiers, steal the name of poetry and appropriate popular applause, contain far less of the genuine spirit of poetry than these humble verses." An editorial notice, by the late editor of the "*New York American*," says,—“In the first and longest piece (Greenwood) there are lines worthy of the unrivalled scenery of that most lovely City of the Dead. There is, throughout them all, a deep sense of moral beauty, a reverence for virtue, a love of nature, and an aptness to catch and paint its living features.” Among the pieces that have attracted most attention are “My Native Home,” “The Romance of Life,” “Strength in Adversity,” “A Landscape of Frost,” and a free translation of the celebrated “*Dies Ira*,” spoken of by competent critics as the best ever published. No higher praise could be awarded than that by a clergyman, himself a fine poet, who, in a notice of some lines in “A Midsummer Ramble,” says, “They strongly remind us of the graceful ease of Cowper, relieved by the energy of Thomson.”

In August, 1850, Mr. Dickinson published a beautifully printed 12mo. volume of two hundred and twenty pages

illustrated entitled "*My First Visit to Europe; or Sketches of Society, Scenery, and Antiquities in England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and France.*" The work is decidedly popular, having passed to a second edition in six weeks. It has elicited much praise from the press, and all classes of readers, whose verdict may be considered entirely decisive. The type were all set up by the author himself. His style is easy, natural, enthusiastic, with an occasional sprinkle of pleasantry, and is free from certain prevailing faults of hackneyed authors, who write for effect, and who aim so high as to overshoot the heads of the people. That we may not be thought to overrate the merits of the book, we shall fortify our own opinion by adopting the language of a writer, second to none for editorial ability, who styles it "a very readable book—fresh, unaffected, genuine. The author, a practical printer, sought, in a sea-voyage and new scenes, restoration of impaired health. He was fortunate in his acquaintances, and in the incidents of his travel; and the narration is at once faithful, varied and interesting." "We have gone over these sketches," (says another,) "with those pleasurable sensations which the mind experiences while enjoying the companionship of a genial and warm-hearted friend. We felt perfectly at home in the journey, while the lively descriptions, poetic fancies, moral reflections, and religious reverence, which characterize the dottings of our traveller, effectually prevented all sense of weariness. There is a transparent honesty and sincerity, a deep sympathy with humanity in all its forms of exhibition, and a tenderness of feeling for sorrow and suffering, in this little volume, which will endear it to the author's friends."

As connected with the topic of this chapter, the name of John Milton Stearns, Esq., deserves honorable mention: having been a resident in Williamsburgh since the year 1844, he has been identified with many of the most important incidents in the development of the intellectual character, enterprise and educational interests. In 1847, a volume of his fugitive writings was published by Edward Walker, of New-York City, as a gift book or annual, under the title of *The Wreath of Wild Flowers*. It was

a neat duodecimo volume of about three hundred pages, filled with stories, sketches, poetry, and reflections of a religious and moral caste. Two editions of this work were sold by the original publisher; after which, its stereotype plates, with the copy-right, were sold at the New-York trade-sale, and passed into the hands of a publishing house in Boston. In the hands of these publishers it lost its original title and the name of its author, and was metamorphosed, by the omission of the preface and one or two articles from the body of the work, and by the introduction of some half a dozen steel engravings, illustrated by as many light fancy scraps of poetry. In 1851, it appeared as the *Amaranth*; and now, in 1852, it styles itself *The Garland*, and claims that its stereotype plates have been "*edited*" by one "Emily Percival." It is believed the present publisher sells from five to ten thousand copies a year of this work, whose effective simplicity and moral associations have commended it to the taste and interest of popular readers. Its author, no doubt, has the satisfaction of knowing that his immediate publisher has not suffered, through the investment in this work; though his own satisfaction, if any, is, we understand, of a higher order than a pecuniary compensation for his labors. Indeed, we are informed, that the present publishers are wholly unknown to him, the legal property in the work having passed to them with the plates. So far as this work is concerned, its author is *literarily dead* (as men will say in politics), and he may amuse himself with the illustration afforded of the fortunes of estates in remainder, when they cease to be guarded by respect to the ancestor.

From July 1847, to July 1848, Mr. Stearns was connected with the *Farmer and Mechanic*, a weekly newspaper published in the city of New-York, to which, as one of the editors, he contributed numerous essays and articles on the topics to which that paper is devoted; in which, he has sought to impress conviction that *practical intelligence* is essential to the emancipation of labor from the domination of capital, and to develop and exalt the character of a state. And in pursuing this view, he has established a just claim to respect for the many valuable

and useful suggestions found in the columns of his journal during the above period.

Mr. Stearns' contributions to our local press has been various and extensive. Probably his miscellaneous writings, for these papers, and for the city press, with the volume we have noticed, would fill as many as four other similar volumes, and be equal in all to fifteen hundred duodecimo pages. It may, perhaps, be unnecessary to say that the hope of gain has not been among the incitements of his efforts or the genius of his inspirations. If it were so, *that* hope must have inspired an unflagging perseverance against the experience of years, for we are informed that the whole literary income of his life might not exceed fifty dollars.

We are informed that the principles upon which the Board of Finance of the late village and of this city are constituted, were suggested in his correspondence. This novel incident in a municipal corporation has shown an admirable adaptation of our city charter to a proper economy in its administration. The present Board of Education, in many of its features, has been constructed on the plan drawn out by Mr. Stearns, and published in the Williamsburgh Times, for November 30th, 1849.

Mr. Stearns is now devoted to the legal profession, as will be seen by his card, contained under his name in the Directory for 1852-3. What influence the strict constructions, limitations and precisions of this ancient science may have on his literary inspirations remains yet to be seen; for, though the law seems sometimes the most uncertain thing in existence, its tendency is to a rigid authority over the spirit and mind, as well as over human conduct and material things. Whatever the law may give us, it *demand*s facts rather than fictions, and experience more than theory, and values the substantial in present rewards for human toil more than the dreams of poets of celestial skies—dreamed in the desolations of a garret or a cave.

Rev. John B. Finlay, Ph. D., Rector of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, has made large additions to the literature of Williamsburgh. The Doctor is conversant

with the oriental languages and literature, and a finished historical and theological scholar. It were superfluous for us to eulogize his published productions. The extensive circulation his works have received is sufficient proof of his talents as a writer.

As an author his first publication was a Latin Essay on the "Philosophy of the Human Mind." It was published in connection with a "Dissertation on the Philology of Homer," at Leipsic, (Germany,) in the year 1846. In 1848, while in Canada, he published *Letters on Education*. In 1851, he published a volume of lectures on the History of the Christian Church. Its chief design, was to refute the lecture of Archbishop Hughes, on the "Decline of Protestantism." It viewed the Christian Church in a fourfold state—in her purity, decline, apostacy, and reformation—designated by the terms, "Evangelism, Catholicism, Romanism, and Protestantism." His next publication, was an Address delivered to the Protestant Association, in Paterson, N. J., entitled "Protestantism, the only Propagator of Civil and Religious Liberty."

He is now editor of a monthly periodical, called *The Protestant*—which is not a sectarian publication, but is chiefly for propagating the principles of the fathers of the Reformation, as they are set forth in the Reformed Catholic Church. This work has a large circulation, and is becoming increasingly popular.

A *Translation of the entire Bible*, published in Philadelphia, under the direction of Professor Kendrick of Hamilton College, was made principally by the Rev. N. N. Whiting, who has for many years been a resident of Williamsburgh. Mr. Whiting excels as a writer, and is, undoubtedly, one of the most thorough scholars of the age.

Subsequently he published a Tract on German Neology, which evinced the same extensive reading and knowledge of letters, that have marked all his literary productions.

"*Moral Trainer*."—This work was published by Mr. Alexander Taylor, who was a school teacher. The work is a compilation of the state of schools and primary edu-

cation, both in Europe and America. Mr. T. was also the author of the "Economical Collection for School and Farm Book-keeping." We know but little of the merits of the above gentleman as an author, but believe his works had but a very limited circulation.

Rev. Mr. Isaac Warner published a German and English Grammar, designed for the use of Germans who wished to become acquainted with the English language. He also published the "Emigrant's Guide, and Citizen's Manual," intended for the use of emigrants and travellers. In addition to the above he published an Essay, the object of which was to prove, that *capital punishment* is essential to the good order and well-being of Society.

Rev. J. C. F. Frey published in two volumes a course of Lectures, illustrating the types of the Old Testament. We have been informed that Mr. F. was a convert from Judaism, and a scholar of some merit.

Mr. John Coit, who has long since been called from this world, published a work on Navigation, which has contributed its part towards perfecting that system of navigation which is so universally adopted.

A History of the United States was published by Dr. Egbert Guernsey. The leading feature of this work, which was intended for schools, was "to trace God's hand in History." The same gentleman rendered Dr. Hull much valuable assistance on his work, entitled "Homœopathic Practice of Medicine."

Rev. Mr. McLane, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, has distinguished himself as a biblical Scholar. We quote the following from the *Long Island Family Circle*. "A very laborious and valuable contribution to Biblical Literature was made by the Rev. Mr. McLane. The American Biblical Society needed a more accurate edition of the Bible than they possessed. During the frequent reprintings of that Holy volume, innumerable errors in punctuation, type-setting, &c., had crept in. To correct these demanded the most mature scholarship and profound judgment. The work was accomplished, after a vast deal of pains and application, to the entire satisfaction of the managers of the American Bible Society, and

with the thanks of all the Bible students, pastors and teachers, throughout the land. He also is one of the contributors of the *New Englander*, an able Theological Quarterly of New Haven."

The first Williamsburgh Directory was published in 1847, by our esteemed fellow-citizen, Mr. Henry Payson. He published it three successive years but with pecuniary loss every year. He then abandoned the field, which was at once occupied by the present publishers, Messrs. Samuel and T. F. Reynolds. By great exertion on their part, the work has since then paid expenses, and is now becoming a very popular medium for advertising.

The work has been much improved by the present publishers, and is now considered an indispensable convenience to the business community of our city.

The last publication written in Williamsburgh, was from the pen of Prof. Abadie, entitled the "*Fireman*." The work is dedicated to the Firemen of the three cities, Williamsburgh, New York, and Brooklyn. It consists of fugitive pieces many of which emanated from emotions occasioned by incidental occurrences, and were written for the most part, for the Williamsburgh newspapers. Prof. A. has a poetic turn of mind, and loves "to invoke the muses." Many of the thoughts conveyed in his poems are pretty, and his allegories appropriate and striking. We doubt not the work will have a considerable circulation among that class of our citizens to whom it is dedicated.

In addition to the above works, many pamphlets, tracts and sermons, have been published in Williamsburgh, by clergymen and others. To give a notice of all these fugitive productions, would be impracticable and uninteresting. We shall close our sketch of Williamsburgh Literature, by noticing the different newspapers which have been started at various times.

The Williamsburgh Gazette was the first paper ever published here. It was started, May 25th, 1835, under the direction of Mr. Adrastus Fish. Feb. 5th, 1837, it was transferred to the present proprietor, Mr. L. Darbee. It was continued a *neutral*, until October 1840, during the

Harrison campaign, when it was changed to a political paper. In January 1850, it appeared as a "Daily," and as such, is still continued.

The Williamsburgh Democrat was the next paper that appeared. It was commenced in June 1840, and afterwards discontinued.

The Democratic Advocate then followed in 1844. This paper was continued about six years.

The Daily Long Islander appeared in 1845, and was discontinued after a few weeks. It was conducted by the present proprietors of the *Independent Press*.

The Morning Post next appeared in 1847; that was also subsequently discontinued.

The Daily Times next appeared in 1848, under the direction of Messrs. Bennett & Smith.

The Independent Press was started in July 1850, by an Association, afterwards transferred to Messrs. Swackhamer, and finally to the present proprietors, Messrs. Bishop & Kelly.

The Long Island Zeitung, a German paper, appeared in January 1851.

The Kings County Chronicle was first published by Mr. Swackhamer, in August 1851.

The Long Island Family Circle appeared in the beginning of March 1852. Messrs. Schroeder & Co., are the proprietors, and Mr. J. C. Gandar is the publisher.

The Williamsburgh Telegraph numbers last of the list, and was commenced in the latter part of March, 1852.

Of the above papers, there are three dailies, viz: the *Daily Times*, *Gazette* and *Independent Press*, and four weeklies, viz: the *Long Island Zeitung*, *Kings County Chronicle*, *Long Island Family Circle*, and *Telegraph*.

The papers ultimately discontinued, as above-mentioned, were the *Long Islander*, *Democrat*, *Morning Post*, and *Democratic Advocate*.

Williamsburgh Lyceum.—On Thursday evening, 15th March, 1838, a meeting was called, by public notice, for the purpose of forming a Debating Society, to afford our citizens an opportunity for improvement in oratory, and

the acquirement of general knowledge. Mr. Paul J. Fish was called to the Chair, and Thos. C. Moore, was appointed Secretary.

A Committee of seven was appointed to draft a constitution, viz: W. C. Shaw, Jno. S. McKibbin, Levi Darbee, Jno. Moore, and David Strong, together with the President and Secretary.

At a subsequent meeting, a constitution was framed, and the following were the officers elected :

President, Paul J. Fish ; *Recording Secretary*, Thos. C. Moore : *Vice Pres.* Jno. S. McKibbin ; *Treasurer*, W. C. Shaw ; *Corresponding Secretary*, J. H. Herbert ; *Directors*, Levi Darbee and Jno. Moore.

The constitution was signed by several gentlemen, in addition to those above-mentioned ; they were, Dr. George Cox, Orlando Warren, Schenck Way, Lyman Cook, John Wright, Samuel C. Davis, W. Vost, W. Frisby, Octavius Longworth, Jno. Cook, N. N. Whiting, Davis Johnson, L. T. Coles, and F. V. Morrell.

The meetings were held in the Court-room. The first lecture was delivered by Mr. J. W. Wright, on the "Structure of the English Language."

The first debate was, "Are Theatrical Exhibitions beneficial to a Community?" which, after a very interesting debate, was decided in the negative.

The second lecture was delivered by Dr. Northall, in the Dutch Reformed Church, before a large audience, subject "Physical Education of the Young."

The Lyceum continued to hold its meetings weekly, till May 16th, 1839, which appears to have been the last meeting, till March 27th, 1844, when it received new life, the constitution being revised and altered, and the following officers elected :

President, A. P. Cumings ; *Vice Presidents*, Timothy Coffin, Thos. N. Ayres ; *Corresponding Secretary*, Dan'l Egan ; *Recording Secretary*, Wm. C. Prime ; *Treasurer*, Jonathan Odell ; *Curators*, B. Graham, Ephraim Miller, Thos. C. Moore, Lawrence Waterbury, Samuel R. Kelly.

Many able, interesting and instructive debates were then held. The first of which, was, "Are the abilities of

the sexes naturally equal " which was decided negatively by the President, on the merits of the question, and the Lyceum decided in favor of the affirmative, on the merits of the debate. It was supported on the affirmative by the Rev. Mr. Roberts, D. Egan, Esq., and the Rev. N. S. Prime, on the negative, by Rev. Mr. Van Doren, Mr Mac-Donald, and Mr. W. C. Prime

The erection of a building which should contain a room for debates and lectures, reading room, library, and cabinet of minerals, was agitated, a committee formed and plans prepared.

Lectures from several eminent gentlemen were delivered during this season. Among the debates was one which elicited much interest and animated discussion, (it being continued through two evenings,) viz : "Ought the Tariff to be for revenue, or protection?" it was decided in favor of the negative.

On the 29th of January the following resolution was submitted and adopted :

Resolved, That the Executive Board be requested to apply to the Legislature of the State, for an act to incorporate the Williamsburgh Lyceum, with the usual powers and privileges invested in institutions of this character.

Notices were put in the village papers, and also in the State paper, at Albany, of the intention of making such an application. The amount which had been left blank, was subsequently filled up for twelve thousand dollars.

The debates were interspersed throughout with lectures and anonymous contributions. Nothing of much interest transpiring till August 27, 1815, when Mr. Cumings resigned as President, and Mr. D. Egan was elected to fill the vacancy, a resolution was passed tendering to the ex-President the thanks of the Lyceum for the able and devoted manner in which he had performed the duties of his office, since the re-establishment of the institution.

January 7, 1816, the annual election took place ; Jos. Boughton was chosen President ; with regard to the other officers there was no material change.

January, 1817, a slight change of officers took place and the usual interest was maintained in lectures and

debates, throughout the season ; at the close of which a literary festival was held, consisting of addresses from the Rev. Mr. Prime, Dr. Baird, and Prof. Mapes.

January, 1848, Mr. Cumings was again chosen to the Presidency. *1st Vice Pres.*, Stephen Waterman ; *2d do.*, Dr. E. Guernsey ; *Recording Secretary*, Wm. Bunting ; *Corresponding Secretary*, J. M. Stearns ; *Treasurer*, Benj. H. Howell ; *Curators*, Geo. S. Schemerhorn, Sylvester M. Baird, Jas. Warner, Wm. J. Nevius, B. T. Jessup.

Prof. Loomis delivered a course of lectures this season upon Astronomy, which were well attended. An addition of two hundred volumes was made to the library.

The closing exercises consisted of an address by Rev. Sam'l J. Prime, on the life and public services of Jno. Quincy Adams ; a collection was taken in aid of the library.

January, 1849, Capt. N. Briggs was chosen President, but having resigned, the Rev. S. S. Jocelyn was elected in his stead. Lectures and debates continued as usual. Among the latter was a rather curious one, viz : " If a pumpkin vine spring from the land of one man, and bear fruit on that of another, does the fruit belong to him on whose land it springs ? " which was decided in the negative on the merits of the debate.

January, 1850, Dr. A. J. Berry was elected to the Presidency. The debates were discontinued.

January, 1851, Prof. M. B. Anderson (of New York Recorder) was chosen President for this year. Lectures were the only exercises, Dr. Baird delivering the closing one for the season.

December 4th, 1851, the opening lecture was delivered by Rev. Daniel P. Noyes, to a large and respectable audience.

January, 1852, Prof. Anderson was re-elected to the Presidency, but declined, and Hon. E. D. Culver was chosen to fill the vacancy. The most eminent lecturers were employed during this season, which closed with a poem delivered by Rev. Jno. Pierpont.

CHAPTER VI.

SCHOOLS.

Among the most promising indications of the future prosperity of Williamsburgh is the liberal provision made for popular education. Recent as is the organization of this school system, its present prosperity and usefulness may be regarded as an *earnest* of what we may expect in the great business of educating our youth. But a few years ago there was but one of these schools in the village of Williamsburgh, and that was kept in an old shattered building on the north side, where the *old log cabin* stood.

Mr. Butler, the present City Clerk, who was one of the pioneers in the cause of education, successfully conducted the first school. Although his difficulties were many, for want of room, of books, and of proper sympathy and encouragement from those whose duty it was to promote the cause, he persevered in his efforts, and laid the foundation of public instruction for our young City. We understand, that for the first few years, but a very small number of our citizens felt much interest in the cause of education, although its importance must have been admitted by all. It is a fact, worthy of mention, that some of the most active and efficient friends of the public school system were men of a very limited education, and possessing but a small amount of book-knowledge, yet they knew that education is one of the "*pillars in the temple of liberty*," and although they were deprived of its benefits themselves, except in a limited degree, were desirous that their children, and those of their fellow-citizens, should enjoy the advantages of a regular system of mental training, and be thus fitted for active life.

In the year 1820, David Dunham, of the town of Bushwick, gave a plot of ground, the dimensions of which were thirty by one hundred feet, near North First street, for the purpose of erecting upon it a district school-house. The

same plot of ground, we are informed by good authority, was recently occupied by the colored school. The school was then known as District School No. 3, in the town of Bushwick. This school district included all the present City of Williamsburgh west of Union avenue, which constitutes the First and Second Wards. At this time the whole number of children in the district did not exceed forty. The village of Williamsburgh being incorporated in 1827, and increasing in numbers, public attention was in some degree turned to the subject of education. Several unsuccessful attempts were made by private individuals to obtain assistance from the State Legislature to put the schools on equal pecuniary standing with those of New York city. Owing to the prejudice then existing against public schools, the majority of the inhabitants opposed the cause, rather than advance it; and thus the first school continued to drag out a miserable existence, doing and receiving but a very small amount of good, until 1838, with but little variation and less interest. In 1838, Mr. Edwin Ferry, David Garret and James Ainslie were elected as Trustees of District School No. 3. The school at this time, as we have noticed, was at a very low ebb, its character being such that only a few of the parents allowed their children to attend. The Trustees industriously set themselves to work to improve the character and promote the usefulness of the school. They discharged the teacher then employed, and, in his stead, engaged Mr. William H. Butler, before referred to. When Mr. Butler entered upon his duties in connection with this school, the number of children in attendance was only thirty; this number increased within a year to one hundred and fifty, nearly one half of all the children in the district, the whole number being three hundred and six, and three-fourths of all that were fit to attend school. The school-house was a one story building, nineteen by twenty-five feet. In this small building there was crowded the number just stated, viz.: one hundred and fifty children. As the building was inadequate to accommodate the increasing numbers, a meeting was called the next year (1839) for the purpose of raising money to enlarge the building. At this meeting

six gentlemen attended, and voted, for this specific purpose, the sum of \$125, which was appropriated to the addition of a second story. Previous to this enlargement, girls and boys were all taught in the same room. In a few months the school increased to two hundred and thirty-six scholars, one hundred and fifty-six of the number boys, and the rest (eighty) girls. The school continued to increase in numbers and grow in favor with all classes. In 1843, the people at the *District School meeting* divided, by vote, the village into three districts. Mr. Richard Berry was elected Superintendent of Schools, and a short time after his election the districts were divided, and remain the same, without any change of territory. A large and substantial brick building was forthwith erected in each district, adequate to the wants of the increasing population. About two years ago, a large and elegant building was added to the first district, and in the second district the building was exchanged for a much larger and more suitable one. It is worthy of notice, that, as the number of scholars in Williamsburgh in 1838 was three hundred and six, in 1852, a period of fourteen years, that number had increased to six thousand and seven hundred. This great increase was, no doubt, partly owing to the ample provision made for public education, as well as by other advantages Williamsburgh possesses.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

In addition to the provision made for public instruction, there are numerous private schools, more or less select, for both sexes, and of various grades.

Many private schools have been established, continued for a while, and been given up, either from want of patronage or other causes, both before and since the public school organization. To give a detailed account of all these would be a task of great labor and little interest. We shall, therefore, do no more than give a sketch of the principal ones now in existence. It is very encouraging to know that the private schools in Williamsburgh compare favorably with the best regulated ones in New York city. Although this is an acknowledged fact, combined

with the advantage of a quiet and healthful location, many persons send their children to New York to be educated, thereby exposing them to all the disadvantages of a close city atmosphere and crowded streets, without receiving any advantage which the schools of Williamsburgh do not present. We know not how to account for this strange and incautious proceeding of parents towards their children, unless it be on the ground of prejudice. It is known to all that a great part of our increasing population consists of families from New York, who move over for economy or health, or both; that being the case, it may not be strange that parents, at first, overlook this incautious exposure of their children, and send them a while to their former schools.

The largest of the select schools for boys is the Williamsburgh Grammar School, situated on the corner of Fourth and South Ninth streets. This institution, which was established by the Rev. Charles Reynolds, rector of Christ Church, and soon after transferred to his brothers, has been successfully conducted five years, during which time it has received many expressions of approval and satisfaction from its numerous patrons. Our personal relations make it injudicious and unbecoming in us to eulogize this institution. To ascertain the particulars, our readers are referred to the school circular.

The next school in size and character is, probably, the "Mathematical and Classical Institution," conducted by Mr. I. W. Warner, situated on the corner of Ainslie and Smith streets. This school has been in operation several years, and from its location is well situated for the accommodation of the Third Ward, as well as for farmers' sons residing in Bushwick.

The Williamsburgh Institute is located in Sixth street, between South Third and South Fourth. This school is under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Lockwood, who first opened it in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, and afterwards erected a building in the above location. We are unable to give any further details of this school, which is apparently in a prosperous condition.

The "Commercial and Classical Academy" is kept by

the Rev. A. A. Marcellus, in the consistory room of the Reformed Dutch Church. This school, under a different name, has been conducted for several years by Mr. Ferris, and was at one time much the largest private school in Williamsburgh. This gentleman resigned the "moulding of the young and tender mind" to other hands a few months since, and has, we are informed, taken the responsibility of moulding harder material, though perhaps much more easily shaped. This school was transferred by him to a Mr. D., under whose direction it was conducted but a very short time, making true the adage "*that all good scholars are not good teachers.*" Afterwards the Rev. Mr. Marcellus was prevailed upon by his friends to return to Williamsburgh and reopen this school, which he did the first of May last.

We believe these are all the male schools in which the mathematics, and the classics are taught.

Among the principal female schools are the following :

The Young Ladies' Collegiate Institute, which is under the direction of Prof. P. Abadie, and located in the first story of the Grammar School building, corner of Fourth and South Ninth streets.

This institution was started about four years ago, by the Rev. C. Reynolds, and for the first term was conducted with only two pupils. Before the close of the second term the number increased to over twenty, and has been steadily increasing ever since. After its successful operation one year, it was transferred to the present proprietor, and removed from Mr. Reynolds' residence, 50 South Eighth street, to 89 Fourth street, and there conducted until the erection of the Grammar School building, in September, 1850.

This institution stands in high repute, and compares favorably with any in the country. It has received many very flattering reports from visiting and examining committees; and many essays from the young ladies, at various times, have evinced a thorough synthetical training, and elicited much credit from a criticising public.

The "Female Seminary," by Miss Howland, is kept in the adjoining building to the First Presbyterian Church in

South Fourth street, near Sixth. This institution has been in operation a number of years, and has undergone some removals in location. It was removed, in 1850, from Fourth street to its present building, which was erected expressly for the school. It is both a boarding and day school, and has, we believe, deservedly a good reputation.

Prof. Metcalfe's Academy for Young Ladies was opened in May, 1851, in 68 South Ninth street. The Professor came here highly recommended as an experienced and efficient teacher, and opened his school with a considerable number of young ladies. This institution is receiving a due share of patronage and support, and is very favorably spoken of. There are many other schools of inferior character, patronized by persons who are unable to pay the respective terms of tuition in the above institutions, or who send their children to get the rudiments of education. To notice all these primary schools would be a work of supererogation.

CHAPTER VII.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

The Williamsburgh Bible Society was organized in 1845, and made auxiliary to the "American Bible Society." Its object is to distribute among the poor and destitute, the sacred scriptures in the common version, without note or comment. Persons are admitted as members of this society by paying one dollar, annually, and life members by paying the sum of ten dollars.

The ministers of the gospel residing in Williamsburgh, who are members of the society, constitute an executive board, to superintend its operations.

"Local feeling, party prejudice, sectarian jealousies, are excluded by its very nature. Its members are leagued in that, and in that alone, which calls up every hallowed, and puts down every unhallowed principle—the dissemination of the scriptures in the received versions where they exist, and in the most faithful where they may be required. In such a work, whatever is dignified, kind, venerable, true, has ample scope, while sectarian littleness and rivalries can find no avenue of admission."

We cannot give a better idea of the object and character of this institution, than submitting an extract from an address, written by the first president of the society, and which was published with the constitution, and circulated at the first organization, January, 1845.

"In the first place, the perfectly *catholic character* of the institution claims attention. It proposes "to distribute the holy scriptures, in the common version, without note or comment." The bible, we all acknowledge, to be the standard of our common faith—the only infallible rule of truth and duty. The distribution of this book, then, unaccompanied by human interpretations, may be promoted with equal propriety, consistency, and advantage, by all evangelical christians. The bare expression of an

apprehension, that the perusal of the naked scriptures might operate unfavorably to particular views, would be construed as an admission, that those views are not to be obviously derived from the bible.

“Whatever may be the language of the constitution, the civilization of the age is derived from christianity; and the institutions of the country are instinct with the same spirit, and it pervades the laws, as it does the manners of the people.” This sentiment, which does equal honor to the head and heart that dictated it, points out the origin, as well as the means of perpetuating our inestimable privileges. The bible is the corner stone; yea, rather, the *entire platform* of all our national institutions. The man, therefore, that would withhold this blessed book from the people, especially from the rising generation of this favored republic, is not an American patriot. Though he may be fed from its soil, and breathe its air, his allegiance is held in another clime, and his patriotism is that of a foreign country. The free institutions of America were learned from the bible; and every true patriot, whatever may be his religious or political sympathies, is equally interested in disseminating the inspired rule of his faith, and the sacred charter of his rights and privileges.

“It is a popular maxim, and when rightly understood, a correct one, that “*Charity begins at home.*” The various relations of social life are so constituted as to manifest the divine design, that every individual should commence the work of benevolence and mercy, in that circle, in which Providence has cast his lot. And it is on this point, Fellow-Citizens, that we wish more especially, to fix your attention. Our own rapidly increasing village, which has nearly doubled its population, within the last four years, is an object worthy of your deepest solicitude. It is already the embryo of a great city, and small as its territorial limits are, it is destined, at no very distant period, to be occupied by 100,000 immortal beings. And, we beseech you to consider, that the influences, which are now brought to bear on this infant community, will stamp the character of its future inhabitants. A tremendous responsibility, then, rests on its present occupants. Situated as we are,

in the shadow of the great metropolis, whose overflowing wickedness is pouring in upon us a much broader stream, than all the Christian benevolence it contains can counteract or control, there is an urgent necessity for the concentration of all the piety and philanthropy and patriotism among us, to stem the torrent of foreign demoralization that is constantly swelling the flood of our home-bred guilt. And while we rejoice in the various influences for good, which have already been brought to bear on the community, we should not forget, that all their efficacy depends on the superior influence, which the bible reveals. This must be superadded, or all other measures will fail.

"In supplying the destitute of our own village, not only funds are requisite, but personal labor must be incurred. The destitute must be sought out, and, in many instances, the supply carried to their doors. Here is no room for any other emulation, than to provoke each other to love and good works, in so holy a cause.

"But, while '*Charity always begins at home,*' *true charity never confines itself there.* Her sphere is the world, and she is never satisfied with making a single community happy. While, therefore, it is our duty to begin this work at home, we are solemnly bound to do our part, in supplying the still more destitute of our country and a benighted world. The work is vast—much greater in the detail, than we are apt to regard it in the aggregate. In addition to the thousands of families in the United States now destitute of the scriptures, that number is daily increasing in a ratio that is appalling to contemplate. The annual accession to our population, principally by natural increase, is at the rate of 4 1-3 *per cent.*, which, on the present amount, gives 2,000 souls *per day*. In a corresponding proportion, more than 145,000 families are constituted every year. To supply each of these with a bible, would require more than *one-half* of all the copies issued by our national institution from year to year. And yet a destitute world remains to be supplied with the Word of Life. There is, therefore, a demand for immediate, unremitting and constantly increasing exertion, to keep pace with the accumulating magnitude of the work."

Its officers were the following gentlemen :

Rev. N. S. Prime, *President*; Andrew Dickinson, David Kilgour, jr., Thos. B. Maybee, H. V. Raymond, Henry Mc Kinstry, and Thos. N. Ayres, *Vice Presidents*; Andrew C. Benedict, *Treasurer*; Paul J. Fish, *Corresponding Secretary*; Jonathan S. Burr, *Recording Secretary*.

Williamsburgh Tract Society, (auxillary to the American Tract Society,) was organized May 14th, 1839.

The first officers were, Rev. N. N. Whiting, *President*; Rev. Mr. Henderson, *Vice Pres.*; Geo. R. Miller, *Sect'y*; T. N. Ayres, *Treasurer*.

The number of districts the first year - - - 30

Number of tracts distributed monthly - - - 700

The Society was re-organized and its present constitution adopted in May, 1845.

The present number of districts is - - - 300

Number of families about - - - 6,000

Of which are German, about - - - 100

“ French “ - - - 50

The present officers of the society are, Rev. Mr. Lockwood, *President*; E. N. Colt, M. D., *Vice Pres.*; Wm. Ferris, *Secretary and Treasurer*.

WILLIAMSBURGH DISPENSARY.

It is well known to our readers that the population of Williamsburgh has increased during the last ten years with very great, if not unprecedented, rapidity. A very considerable proportion of this increase is by the poor, both of our own country as well as by emigration from Europe, who seek a residence here because of its near access to the metropolis and the smaller expense of living. Although labor be plentiful, and wages for the laborer comparatively high, yet the poor man can lay up but little of his income, and when he is overtaken with sickness, he must suffer, unless the benevolent hand of relief be extended to him. The attendance of a physician and the medicine required, soon exhaust all his resources, and if restored to health, he returns to his labor dispirited with the burden of a debt which he could not avoid contracting, and which he sees

no prospect of being able to pay. If that attendance, and that medicine had been supplied to him without charge, as he returned to work with renewed health, he would have been freed from the carking care of debt, and could with increased vigor have provided for his family.

Considerations like these influenced the minds of a number of the citizens of Williamsburgh, and led to the inquiry, what can be done to relieve such cases? This question proposed from one to another, led to a meeting for the interchange of views, and to endeavor to give a practical answer to the enquiry. The meeting was held in the Trustees' Hall, on the thirty-first of January, 1851, and after due consideration it was

Resolved, "That it be expedient to organize a Williamsburgh Dispensary."*

A short time after this another meeting was held, when a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the first election for trustees was held on the 10th of February, 1851. Shortly afterwards the board, proceeding under the general law for the incorporation of benevolent societies, obtained a charter for the Williamsburgh Dispensary on the eleventh of March, following.

The report of the Treasurer, contained in the "First Annual Report," shows a receipt from the State, granted by the Legislature, of \$250; an appropriation from the village government, of \$180; by annual subscriptions and donations, \$382 62; and the proceeds of the concert, given by the Grammar School, in behalf of the Dispensary, \$103,57, making in all, \$916,19.

The Apothecary's report shows the number treated, between the first of September 1851, and the first of February, 1852,

	874
Males, - - - - -	352
Females, - - - - -	522
	<hr/> 874
Patients treated at the Dispensary, - - -	822
" " " their Houses, - - -	52
	<hr/> 874

* See First Annual Report of the Board of Trustees.

Number born in Ireland, - - - -	578
“ “ “ United States, - - - -	220
“ “ “ England, - - - -	63
“ “ “ Germany, - - - -	10
“ “ “ Scotland, - - - -	3
	— 874

Number of prescriptions, - - - 1,411

The Dispensary is located on the corner of Fifth and South First streets, a very central and favorable location for the purpose. It was opened for the dispensation of medicine and medical aid, without charge to the poor, on the first day of September, 1851. The above reports were made from the time the institution was opened, up to February 1, 1852, which was five months. From the large amount of suffering relieved in this short time, no one can doubt the necessity of such a benevolent organization in our city. It is with much pleasure that we record the following names, as pioneers in this philanthropic, and christian enterprise.

Officers for the year 1851.—Samuel Groves, *President*; John J. Hicks, Timothy Coffin, *Vice Presidents*; Joseph H. Adams, *Secretary*; Daniel Manjer, *Treasurer*.

Trustees.—Samuel Groves, John J. Hicks, Timothy Coffin, Joseph H. Adams, Daniel Manjer, Richard Ten Eyck, Thos. C. Moore, Thos. J. Van Sant, James F. Kenny, Downing W. Graves, Charles Miller, John F. Greene, Levi W. Ufford, John Hamilton, Horace Thayer, Nathaniel Briggs, Levi Darbee, Jas. D. Sparkman, Chas. L. Cornish, William Morgan, John Broach, Chas. F. Tuttle, Wm. T. Hemmenway, Charles Reynolds, Morgan J. Rhees, William Wall, Chauncey A. Lay, Thomas M. Clark, Henry E. Ripley, Thomas Greene.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

The name, *Odd Fellows*, was first applied to a party or society, which was organized by George IV, and a few of his associates, while he was Prince of Wales. This convivial fraternity had no object in view beyond sport and amusement. Their secrets of initiation, &c., were kept private, until one of its members divulged all

secrecy to Carlyle of London, who published the whole ludicrous affair, to the great amusement of the public. It will be remembered that there is no connection, whatever, other than by name, between the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as it now is, and that Society organized by the Prince of Wales.

Among the principal and leading objects of the Order, are the cultivation of those cardinal virtues, Friendship, Love and Truth—to relieve the needy, visit the sick, and bury the dead.

The titles of the officers of a Lodge are, 1st, "The Noble Grand; 2d, Vice Grand; 3d, Secretary; 4th, Treasurer; 5th, Warden; 6th, Conductor; 7th, Outside Guardian; 8th, Inside Guardian; 9th, Right-hand Supporter of the Noble Grand; 10th, Left-hand Supporter of the Noble Grand; 11th, Right-hand Supporter of the Vice Grand; 12th, Left-hand supporter of the Vice Grand; 13th, Right-hand Scene Supporter; 14th, Left-hand Scene Supporter. . No person under twenty-one, nor over forty-nine years of age, is eligible to membership; nor is any one whose health is so impaired that he cannot attend to his business. The other requisites for candidates are, that they should have a firm belief in the existence of God; should have a good moral character, and should have some respectable means of support.

There are five degrees conferred in the Lodge, which are called the White, Pink, Royal Blue, Green and Scarlet. Each degree has its peculiar initiatory ceremonies and signs, by which those possessing it recognize each other under the most foreign circumstances. These signs together with the password, form the principal secrets of the Order. To receive a farther disclosure than this, our readers must become *Odd Fellows*.

Kings County Lodge, No. 45, was instituted January 12th, 1811. It meets every Wednesday evening in Liberty Hall, corner of North First and Ninth streets. The present number of members is 90.

Crusaders' Lodge, No. 61, was instituted February 5th, 1812. It meets every Thursday evening at Liberty

Hall, corner of North First and Ninth streets. The present number of members is about 40.

The Washington Degree Lodge, No. 14, was next instituted February 15th, 1843; and meets in the above-named place, the first and third Fridays in each month. The number of members is 50.

Wyandank Lodge, No. 336, I. O. O. F., was instituted October 26th, 1847. We believe its charter bears date, October 22d, 1847. This Lodge meets every Tuesday evening, on the corner of Grand and Fifth streets. The number of members is 90.

Mount Pisgah Encampment, No. 26, was instituted at Jamaica, L. I., March 9th, 1848, and removed to Williamsburgh, August 8th, 1851. It meets every second and fourth Friday in each month, in Liberty Hall, on the corner of North First and Ninth streets. Its number of members is 54.

William Tell Lodge was instituted May 8th, 1848. This Lodge meets every Tuesday evening at Liberty Hall, location as above-mentioned. It is composed chiefly of Germans, and the "working" and business of the Lodge done in the German language. The number of members is 120.

Pamunac Lodge, No. 402, was organized on the first of January, 1850. It numbers about 100 members. The Lodge meets every Wednesday evening at the corner of Grand and Fifth streets.

Evening Star Lodge was instituted September 30th, 1850. It meets every Monday evening in Liberty Hall. Its present number of members is 51.

CHAPTER VIII.

FERRIES.

Situated as Williamsburgh is, its growth, and prosperity must mainly depend on its connection, and means of intercourse with the city of New York. As, therefore, the ferries are of paramount interest, and vital importance to all, individually and collectively, we shall deem it our duty to give them a notice in this "sketch." It is difficult to arrive at the exact date of the first ferry between New York and Williamsburgh, from the fact that persons were carried across at intervals, long before the identity of a ferry was acknowledged. The slow and gradual increase of population on this side the river, and the small amount of business transacted between this vicinity and New York, did not for many years warrant a *regular* ferry, although boats were usually kept in readiness to convey passengers across.

Perhaps we should be safe in saying that a regular ferry was established as early as 1797, by a Mr. Hazard, who resided at the foot of Grand street, New York, and who rowed passengers from that point to what is now the foot of Grand street, Williamsburgh. At this time, the houses on the New York side, in the vicinity of the ferry, were very scattering; and where extensive blocks of buildings, and a large population now exist, was then to a great extent, open fields of unbroken grounds. What is now known as Williamsburgh, consisted then of farms fronting the river, and extending eastward. There were eight or ten of these farms in all, the two principal of which belonged to Mr. Miller and Mr. Titus. It is a fact worthy of notice, that scarcely one surviving name of the first families is to be found. We know of but two, the one Mrs. Miller, (now one hundred years old,) and we believe there is a Titus living in California, descended from the same family. The others are obliterate.

As the name of Mr. John Morrell (father of Mr. John Morrell, South Ninth street,) is intimately and honorably connected with the first ferries, we shall notice some of the causes, which, by his enterprise, led to the permanent establishment of a regular systematic ferry communication. Mr. Morrell came here about 1804, and purchased a farm consisting of thirty acres, lying on both sides of Grand street. Shortly after his settlement, he opened Grand street through the centre of his farm, which extended to about Sixth street, and started a ferry from its foot, which place he called *Morrell's Point*. In a short time an amicable understanding existed between Mr. Hazard and Mr. Morrell, both ran their row boats, the one from New York, the other from Morrell's Point, and each sought for all the business he could obtain without infringement on the other's rights. It may be amusing to state that Mr. Morrell kept a *horn* at his ferry, for the convenience of passengers, who, when they wanted to be "ferried o'er the wave," would give the *ventidal* signal which was immediately answered by the agriculturist, at the expense of his plough, hoe, or sickle, as the season might happen to be. It may be well here to notice, that the territory along the river between North Second street and the Wallabout, was called "Yorkton." About this time a gentleman by the name of Woodhull, purchased the land on North Second street, established a ferry from the foot of that street to Rivington street, New York, called it the "Williamsburgh Ferry," in honor of a friend, (as we have before noticed,) which name was applied to all the territory north of North Second street, as far as the creek.

Mr. Morrell having commenced his ferry from the foot of Grand street, and being determined not to be outdone, improved his boats, increased his accommodations, and rendered every facility which circumstances then demanded. The competition carried on between the two ferries was unprecedented in the "History of Williamsburgh." That this spirited emulation worked favorably for the growth of the place, no one will doubt.

The North Second street ferry, after considerable loss on

both sides, was united with the Grand street ferry, which continued the only one for many years. By this time it was very much improved, row and sail-boats were exchanged for *horse-boats*, stables erected, and ample exchange of horses always in readiness. Horse-boats were continued until the first village charter was obtained, in 1827, when one of these boats was metamorphosed into "steam power," and very significantly called the "Eclipse." This boat was kept running for some considerable time, in connection with the old horse boats, which were afterwards exchanged for steam power exclusively. These boats were used for many years, and continued after they were quite unsafe for passengers to risk their lives in them, in consequence of their rottenness, and inability to withstand the slightest collision.

Perhaps in no particular is the improvement of the age more apparent, than in steamboat accommodations, and especially is this applicable to the Williamsburgh ferries.

The village paper (*Gazette*) in those days was filled with many "mad denunciations, and satirical jests," which frequently appeared in "poetic missives," as well as in "prose run mad"

We shall close our sketch of Grand street ferry, by giving an extract of one of those poetic effusions, which will not only show our readers the state of the ferry at the time it was written, much better than we are able to do ourselves, but will probably afford them some little amusement in its perusal, if it should not excite their risibility. A greater effect than this, we do not anticipate.

Grand Street Ferry Accommodation!

THROUGH BY DAYLIGHT!!

I sang, erewhile, of village stock,
 And sunken lots dug down;
 Our ferries now I'll give a shock,
 And ring about the town.
 Inspire me, O ye tuneful Nine,
 To sing in doggerel verse,
 The hulls on the East River brine,
 And their exploits rehearse.

Those leaky scows, stuff'd with old rags,
Well mix'd with tar and feathers,
Of course are proof against the "snags;"
Adapted to all weathers.

Would you be "ferried o'er the wave,"
Yclep'd by some the Styx?
Or would you choose a floating grave?
Apply to Captain Hicks!

Commuters furnish'd at wholesale;
Footpads, four cents a head;
To t'other world they send a mail,
At least, it is so said.

Each hulk contains two whiskey tanks,
To keep the mass a-floating,
In case some of the rotten planks
Give way when they've done rotting.

Conveyances for man and brute,
With filth up to the knees,—
Come on! why don't you all commute,
And take the ocean breeze?

Old "Noah's Ark" lies at the dock,
Too rotten even to burn;
In a late gale an awful shock
Her insides out did turn.

Her smoke-pipe, how it stoops with age,
All rusty and forlorn,
Built when "fast crabs" were all the rage,
Ere Noah himself was born.

Such a stiff knock perhaps you think
Would past recovery spoil her;
You wonder why she didn't sink,
Or burst her crazy boiler.

Pshaw! every time she gets a knock
She'll go so much the longer;
And her nine hundred ninetieth shock
Will make her so much stronger.

You've heard how she one day last week
Brought up with a "round turn;"

The thump made her old timbers creak
And split her through the stern!

The crew gave a tremendous yell;
The cattle snorted loud;
The tottering smoke-pipe, as it fell,
Sent up a pitchy cloud!

'Twas thought her mortal race was run;
But strange, not less than true,
The breach that made two boats of one
They soldered up with glue!

A gander, sailing, o'er the sound,
Was hailed the other day!
The pilot told him to "Wheel round!
And keep out of the way!"

The gander, by the billows rock'd,
Sail'd on in scornful pride;
They met! the dread concussion knock'd
A hole in the boat's side!

All hands instanter did prepare
Straight overboard to jump,
But two, with diligence and care,
Betook them to the pump.

On shore a week they let her lie
Before she did set sail;
Bottom side up, all high and dry,
Just like a stranded whale!

The crew, with zeal not to be balk'd,
Did every thing they could;
The hole with tar and feathers calk'd,
Then plaster'd her with mud!!

Wisely they mean to make or break,
In a great mud-scow match!
Indeed, there is no doubt they'll make
Unparallel'd *dispatch*!

A speculation is afloat
To place her in commission;
A small expense might put the boat
In excellent condition!

Under her vet'ran commodore,
 She's off to the North Pole,
 The lower regions to explore,
 By way of Symmes' Hole !

On a discovery she will go
 Down to the Land of Sin,
 Touching at all the towns below,
 The natives to *take in* !

Their usual shrewdness they will show,
 In taking observation ;
 Their object is to get, you know,
 Another ferry station !

If they succeed, we think they may
 Defy all competition ;
 An endless lease no doubt will pay,
 For which they will petition.

The "Pleasure Nuisance Humbug Line"
 I think could then afford,
 To start with passengers at nine,
 For fourpence and their board !

Look out ! look out ! ye mud-scow boys !
 We've got you on the hip !
 We'll make considerable noise,
 And mean to have Peck Slip !

'Tis all the privilege I ask,
 To cross, "four cents and found,"
 A-straddle an old whiskey cask,
 So nice, and large, and round !

All hail your barges ! hail their crew !
 Hail Grand Street Ferry Co. !
 Hail all your scows, both old and new—
 Before the BREEZE they go !

A. D.

The Peck Slip Ferry, which was established in 1836, has, undoubtedly contributed much more to the growth of Williamsburgh, the last few years, than the first named. This ferry has been the means of introducing the most respectable class of citizens, both mercantile and professional. The easy access to the business part of New-York city by this communication, the good accommodations

which the boats present, together with the delightful sail, are irresistible attractions to those who study the health and happiness of themselves and families.

The Houston street Ferry was erected in 1840, and proved a great convenience to those in employ at the *dry docks*, and other works in that part of the city. The Division avenue Ferry, started in 1851, proved a great convenience to the inhabitants in the southern part of Williamsburgh, who, previously in crossing to Grand street, New York, had either a long walk on this side the river, or a still longer one on the other side.

We believe we shall have the pleasure to record a fifth ferry by another year. A project is under way of establishing a ferry from the foot of South Eleventh street, to that of Catharine street, New York, which we hope will be successfully carried out. The competition would tend to the continued improvement of the Peck Slip Ferry, as well as add to the increase and prosperity of our young city.

STAGES.

The first omnibus was started in the year 1810, by one Mr. Williams, a painter, who resided in South Fifth street near Twelfth. Unlike the systematic management of the present lines of stages, the first omnibus was driven promiscuously through the different streets, and straggling pedestrians picked up and conveyed to or from the Peck Slip Ferry, which was the business focus of this new enterprise. Mr. Williams continued the running of his omnibus about six months, when not having sufficient patronage to defray the incurred expenses, he abandoned the enterprise, and thus the inhabitants of Williamsburgh were again left to their own traveling resources. Since then lines of stages have been successfully and profitably run through Grand, First, South Fourth, and South Seventh streets; and now, for stage communication, we are second to no place, commensurate in population. Lines of stage are running to East New York, Fulton and South Ferry, Brooklyn, Bushwick, Maspeth, Newtown, Greenpoint, Astoria and Flushing.

In conclusion, we would beg the favorable consideration of those of our fellow-citizens who may have been in any measure slighted, for want of fuller information on our part, or by accidental omission. We have not presumed to give a just tribute of praise to *all* whose names might be honorably mentioned in connection with Williamsburgh, yet we humbly hope that at some future time these deficiencies will be supplied, and a truthful and faithful record obtained of all that is worthy of preservation.

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City Charter.

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE CITY OF WILLIAMSBURGH.

Passed April 7, 1851—Three-Fifths being present.

*The People of the State of New-York, Represented in
Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :*

TITLE I.

BOUNDARIES AND CIVIL DIVISIONS.

SECTION 1. All that part of the County of Kings, at present known as the village of Williamsburgh, and which is bounded northerly by the East river and township of Bushwick, easterly by the township of Bushwick, southerly by the city of Brooklyn, and westerly by the East river, shall hereafter be one of the cities of this state, and known by the name of the "City of Williamsburgh."

§ 2. The citizens of this state, from time to time, inhabitants within the aforesaid limits, shall be a corporation under the name and style of the "city of Williamsburgh," and may sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court, make and use a common seal, and alter it at pleasure, and may receive by gift, grant, devise, bequest, or purchase, and hold and convey such real and personal estate as the purposes of the corporation may require.

§ 3. The said city shall be divided into three wards, as follows: All that part thereof, lying west of the centre of Union

avenue, and south of the centre of Grand street, shall be the first ward; the part thereof lying west of the centre of Union avenue, and north of the centre of Grand street, shall be the second ward; and all that part of said city lying east of the centre of Union avenue, shall be the third ward.

§ 4. The said several wards, except as otherwise provided in this act, shall be considered, and are hereby declared to be towns of the county of Kings.

TITLE II.

OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.

SECTION 1. The legislative power of said corporation shall be vested in a board of aldermen. The said board, or a quorum thereof, when duly assembled, shall form the common council.

§ 2. The board of aldermen shall consist of four aldermen to be elected from each ward, each of whom shall, at the time of his election, be an elector of the ward in which he shall be chosen, and shall have been a resident of the city for at least two years immediately previous thereto.

§ 3. The board of aldermen first elected under and by virtue of this act shall, at its first meeting, be divided into two classes, one of which shall go out of office in each year. Two aldermen of each ward shall form one class, and the other aldermen shall form the other class. The mayor shall determine by lot, in open board, the aldermen who shall compose the different classes, and the respective terms of office of each of said classes, certify the same in writing, and file it with the clerk of the board, who shall enter the same on the journal.

§ 4. The first of said classes of the board of aldermen shall hold office for one year, but after the expiration of the said year the term of office of the aldermen elected for said class shall be two years. The second class shall hold office two years; one alderman from each ward of the said second class shall be a member of the board of supervisors of the county of Kings, with all the powers and obligations of a supervisor of said county, and shall receive the same compensation as is now allowed, or may hereafter be allowed by law for such services. The term of office of such aldermen as supervisors shall commence on the first Monday of January succeeding their election, and shall continue for two years thereafter.

§ 5. The members of the common council shall, unless removed for cause, hold office until their places are supplied by

the election of new members, who shall have qualified in the manner provided by this act. In case any alderman shall, after his election, or during his term of office, remove out of the ward in which he shall have been elected, his office shall be deemed vacant, and he shall no longer act as an alderman.

§ 6. A majority of the aldermen elected shall constitute a quorum; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members.

§ 7. The common council shall annually elect a president from its own body, and, in his absence, a president for the time being, choose officers, appoint its times and places of meeting, determine the rules of its own proceeding, be the sole judges of the qualifications of its members, keep a journal of its proceedings, and may punish or expel a member for disorderly conduct, or a violation of its rules, or declare his seat vacated by reason of absence, provided such absence be continued for the space of two months, but no expulsion shall take place except by vote of two-thirds of all the members elected, nor until the delinquent member shall have had an opportunity to be heard in his defence.

§ 8. Every ordinance, or resolution of the common council, shall, before it takes effect, be presented, duly certified, to the mayor. If he approve of it, he shall sign it; in which case it shall take effect immediately thereafter, unless otherwise ordered; if he do not approve of it, he shall return it with his objections, and file it with the city clerk within ten days after he received it; the said board shall, at its first regular meeting thereafter, enter the objections at large in its journal; after which it shall proceed to reconsider the same; and if two-thirds of all the members elected shall then agree to pass the same, it shall take effect as a law; but in every such case the votes shall be taken by ayes and noes, and entered on the journal; and if such ordinance, or resolution, shall not be returned by the mayor, within ten days after he has received it, it shall become a law in like manner as if he had signed it.

§ 9. The common council shall, at least once a year, not more than thirty nor less than twenty days before the annual election, publish in such manner as they shall designate, a full statement of all the receipts and expenditures of every description for the fiscal year preceding such statement, including all the moneys which have passed through the hands of the comptroller, or treasurer, for any purpose whatever, together with the different sources of city revenue, the amount received under each, the several appropriations made by the board of finance, the objects for which the same were made.

and the sums expended from each; also any moneys borrowed upon the credit of the city, whether by temporary loans or by the issue of bonds, the terms upon which they were obtained, the authority under which they were borrowed, and the purposes to which they were applied, and how much of the same or other city indebtedness, has been repaid, and by what means. The statement shall also include a detailed account of the city property, existing debts of every description, and the condition of the sinking fund, if any, with all such other information as may be necessary for a full understanding of the financial concerns of the city.

§ 10. The common council shall hold stated meetings, commencing on the first Monday of January; but the mayor, or in his absence any three aldermen (each representing different wards), may call special meetings by notice to each of the members of said council served personally or left at his usual place of abode.

§ 11. The common council shall have power within said city to make, establish, publish and modify, amend or repeal ordinances, rules, regulations and by-laws for the following purposes:

1. To manage and regulate the finances and property, real and personal, of the city.

2. To prescribe and define the duties of all the officers appointed under this act not otherwise prescribed by law.

3. To establish and regulate a day and night police, and fire departments of the city, within the limits prescribed by law, and to define and regulate the duties and powers of firemen and policemen, and to light the streets of the city.

4. To suppress and restrain disorderly houses, and houses of ill fame, gaming tables, ball alleys, the playing of cards or games of chance in places where liquor is sold to be drunk, to destroy all instruments or devices employed in gaming, to restrain and punish vagrants, mendicants, street beggars and common prostitutes, and to prevent any riot, disturbance or disorderly assemblages.

5. To prohibit or regulate the exhibition of common shows, men, or of curiosities or other public exhibitions tending to create or encourage idleness or immorality.

6. To regulate the wharves, piers and slips, owned by the city, and direct the affairs thereof.

7. To license and regulate cartmen, porters, hack, cab, omnibus, stage and truck owners and drivers, and all carriages and vehicles used for the transportation of passengers or merchandise, goods, or articles of any kind, surveyors, com-

mon criers, hawkers, peddlers, pawn-brokers, junk-shop keepers, sweeps and scavengers, and fix the rates of compensation to be allowed to them, and to prohibit unlicensed persons from acting in either of such capacities, or to authorize the mayor to grant such licenses, and to require the owners to mark such carriages and vehicles in such manner as the common council shall designate.

8. To locate, regulate and remove slaughter houses; establish and regulate public markets; license and regulate butchers; designate the places, times, and manner of selling meats, fish, fruits and vegetables; and to prohibit persons from selling without license.

9. To prescribe the places for selling hay, straw, and other articles from wagons or other vehicles.

10. To regulate the burial of the dead, prohibit interments within the city, or within such limits as it may prescribe, purchase lands for public burial places, direct the keeping and returning of bills of mortality, and to establish such regulation for conveying the dead through the streets of the said city, as the health, quiet and good order of the city may in their opinion require, or to prohibit the same entirely, if necessary.

11. To prevent and remove obstructions and incumberances in and upon all wharves, streets and public places, and the throwing of dirt, filth or rubbish on or from the same into the water adjoining, to direct and regulate the planting, rearing, trimming and preserving of ornamental and shade trees in the streets, parks and grounds of the city, to enforce the removal of snow, ice or dirt from sidewalks and gutters, and to direct the sweeping and cleaning of streets by the person owning or occupying the premises fronting thereon.

12. To regulate or prohibit the keeping of cows, swine and other animals.

13. To restrain and regulate the running at large of cattle, horses, sheep, swine, geese, or any animals; and to authorize and regulate the impounding and sale of the same for the penalty incurred, and costs of proceedings, and to pass ordinances authorizing the destruction of dogs.

14. To abate, destroy and remove nuisances.

15. To regulate or prohibit swimming or bathing in the waters of or bounding the city.

16. To regulate or prohibit the flying of kites, or any other practice having a tendency to frighten animals, or to annoy persons passing in the streets or on the sidewalks in said city.

17. To prevent horse racing and immoderate driving in said

city, and to authorize the stopping of any one who shall be guilty of so doing.

18. To prohibit or regulate the keeping and conveying of gunpowder and other dangerous materials, and the use of candles and lights in barns, stables and other buildings.

19. To establish an assize of bread and regulate the sale thereof.

20. To regulate and restrain runners for boats, stages, railroads, taverns and other houses, and the running of engines and cars through said city.

21. To prevent or regulate the ringing and tolling of bells, blowing of horns and crying of goods and other things in said city.

22. To regulate the compensation for the services of any officer of said city, or other person employed by him for searching the books, files or records of said city, for private persons, which compensation shall be paid into the city treasury.

23. To regulate victualing houses or cellars, or gardens and other places where ardent spirits or other intoxicating drinks, may be sold, and to prohibit the keeping of the same, except by persons duly licensed.

24. To regulate the construction of chimneys, and to compel the sweeping thereof; to prevent the setting up or constructing of stoves, boilers, ovens or other things, in such a manner as to be dangerous; to prohibit the deposit of ashes in unsafe places; to authorize any city officer or person or persons whom they may designate for that purpose, to enter upon and inspect any place or places for the purpose of ascertaining whether the same is or are in a safe condition, and if not, to direct, or cause the same to be made so; to regulate the carrying on of manufactories dangerous in causing or promoting fires; to regulate or prohibit the sale or use of fire-works or fire-arms in said city; to require all such further or other acts to be done, and to regulate or prohibit the doing of all such further or other acts as they may deem proper to prevent the occurrence and provide for the extinguishment of fires in said city.

25. To compel the owner or occupant of any grocery, cellar, tallow chandler's shop, soap factory, tannery, slaughter house, stables, stalls, privy, sewer, or other unwholesome or nauseous house, place or yard, to cleanse, remove or abate the same from time to time, as often as it may be necessary for the health, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants, at the expense of the owner or occupant thereof, and to prescribe

certain limits within which it shall not be lawful to erect or establish any offensive or unwholesome manufactory or business.

26. To direct the digging down, draining or filling up of lots, pieces or parcels of ground, in all cases in which by a vote of two-thirds they shall decide such digging down, draining or filling up necessary for preventing any damage or injury to the streets, side walks, cross walks, or to the adjoining property, or for abating a nuisance at the expense of the owners thereof: to direct the fencing in or enclosing of vacant lands in said city; but before any ordinance shall be passed for any of the purposes in this subdivision mentioned, ten days' notice of the application for, or the intention to pass such ordinance shall be given to every person to be affected thereby, either personally or by publication in the corporation newspapers.

27. To prevent or regulate the erection or construction of any stoop, step, platform, bay window, cellar door, area, descent into a cellar or basement, sign, or any post or erection, or any projection from any building, or otherwise, in, over or upon any street or avenue, in, or the removal of any house or other building through, said city, and to cause the same to be taken out and removed from such street or avenue, at the expense of the owner or occupant of the premises.

28. To raze or demolish any building or erection which, by reason of fire or any other cause, may become dangerous to human life or health, or tend to extend a conflagration.

29. To adopt all legal and requisite measures for levying and collecting the taxes.

30. To prevent the selling, or giving away, with intent to evade the excise laws, any strong or spirituous liquors by any store-keeper, trader or grocer, except by persons duly licensed thereto, and to prohibit the selling or giving away, of any strong or spirituous liquors to any child, apprentice, servant or minor, without the consent of his or her parent, guardian master or masters.

31. To limit and define the duties which are by this act required to be performed by the several officers of the city, and to prescribe such other or further duties to be performed by them, or any of them, as it may deem proper.

§ 12. The common council shall also have power to make, establish, alter, modify, amend and repeal all such other ordinances, rules, police regulations and by-laws, not contrary to the laws of this state, or of the United States, as they may deem necessary to carry into effect the powers conferred on it

by this act, or by any other law of this state; and such also as they deem necessary and proper for the good government, order and protection of the persons and property, and for the preservation of the public health, peace and prosperity of said city and its inhabitants.

§ 13. In every by-law, ordinance, or police, or sanitary regulation, the said common council may pass, it may impose such penalty for the violation or non-performance thereof as it may deem proper; not exceeding one hundred dollars in amount, but no such by-law, ordinance, or regulation, shall extend in its operation beyond the territorial limits of this city.

§ 14. Suits may be prosecuted in the corporate name of the city, against any person or persons who shall violate any provision of any law, ordinance or regulation of the common council of said city, or who shall neglect or refuse to perform any act or duty hereby required of him or them; and in every such action it shall be sufficient to declare generally for the penalty sued for, stating the by-law, ordinance or regulation, and the section thereof, upon which such action is brought; and every police justice and justice of the peace elected in said city shall have jurisdiction in all such cases, and execution may be issued thereon immediately on the rendition of judgment; and all penalties and forfeitures, when collected, shall be paid to the treasurer for the use of the city.

§ 15. Every general ordinance, by-law, rule or regulation which may be passed by the common council, imposing a penalty, shall, after passage thereof, and before the same shall take effect, be published for ten days successively in the corporation newspapers. Proof of such publication by the affidavit of the printer or publisher of such newspaper, taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths, filed in the office of the city clerk, or a copy thereof certified by said clerk, shall be deemed presumptive evidence thereof in all courts and places; but such publication may be proved by any other competent evidence.

§ 16. The common council shall designate the two newspapers printed in said city, having the largest *bona fide* circulation, in which shall be published all ordinances, resolutions, notices or other proceedings, which by this act or any other act are or may be required to be published, except as hereinafter otherwise directed.

§ 17. The common council shall have power by resolution.

1. To compel the owner or occupant of any building or wall in the said city, which may be in a ruinous or unsafe

condition, to render the same safe or to remove it, and in case he will not proceed as directed, either to render it safe or to remove it, to cause the same to be done at the expense of such owner or occupant, and to sue for and recover the expense thereof in a civil action.

2. To require the removal or destruction of any dead carcass or other unwholesome or offensive substance or substances likely to become unwholesome or offensive, from any street, lot, or building, by the owner or occupant thereof, and in case such owner or occupant will not proceed as required to remove or destroy the same, then to cause the same to be done at the expense of such owner or occupant, and to sue for and recover the expense thereof in a civil action.

3. To require any building, fence or other erection which may be placed within or erected upon the line of any street or highway in the city, to be removed therefrom by the owner or occupant, and in case of his neglect to remove the same to cause it to be removed at the expense of such owner or occupant, and to sue for and recover the expense thereof in a civil action.

§ 18. The aldermen to be elected as hereinbefore provided, shall be fence viewers within their respective wards, and shall have and exercise all the powers and authority of fence viewers.

§ 19 The mayor shall annually, on or before the first Monday of February, present to the common council a statement in writing, of the several sums of money he shall deem necessary to be raised by tax for the various purposes contemplated by this act.

TITLE III.

OF CITY OFFICERS, THEIR ELECTION AND DUTIES.

SECTION 1. The administrative powers of said corporation shall be vested in a mayor, comptroller, street commissioner, collector of taxes and assessments, and such other officers as shall from time to time, be created by law or appointed by virtue of this act.

§ 2. No person shall be elected or appointed to any such office, unless he be at the time of his election a resident and elector of the city, and, if elected to any ward or district office, an actual resident in such ward or district.

§ 3. Elections for such officers as are by the provisions of this act to be elected, shall be held in each of the wards and election districts of said city, on the day of the general state

election, at such places as the common council shall designate. The first election for said officers, shall be held on the day of the general election in November, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one. The electors shall vote by ballot in the district where they actually reside.

§ 4. On the outside of each ballot, when folded, shall appear, written or printed, one of the following words, "City" "Excise," but no ballot found in the proper box shall be rejected for want of such endorsement. The ballot endorsed "City" shall contain the names of all the city officers then to be chosen, except commissioners of excise, any or either of them; and the ballot endorsed "Excise" the names of the commissioners of excise to be chosen, any or either of them; such ballots shall be deposited in separate boxes to be provided by the city for that purpose, and all the provisions of law in respect to the election of state officers shall be deemed to apply to elections held under this act, so far as the same are applicable and consistent therewith.

§ 5. The canvass of the votes in each election district shall be completed without adjournment, and upon its completion, the inspectors shall cause a statement thereof to be made and signed by them, and shall on the same day or the next day thereafter file the same with the clerk of the city. The clerk shall present the statement to the common council at a meeting to be held for the purpose on the Saturday succeeding the election, at or before five o'clock on that day, and a majority of the aldermen shall constitute a quorum. The common council shall thereupon determine who, by a plurality of votes, are elected to fill the offices voted for, and make and subscribe a certificate thereof in the book of record of its proceedings. The clerk shall thereupon serve upon each person elected to an office, either personally, or at his place of residence, a notice of his election. At the first election to be held under this act, the statement above mentioned shall be filed with the clerk of the village of Williamsburgh, and it shall be the duty of the president and trustees of said village, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, at a meeting to be held for that purpose on the Saturday succeeding such first election, to determine and certify who, by a plurality of votes, are elected to fill the offices voted for.

§ 6. The mayor shall be elected every two years, and no person shall be eligible to that office unless he has resided in the city at least three years. He shall receive such salary as shall be fixed by the board of finance. He shall, by virtue of his office, be a supervisor of the city of Williamsburgh, and a

member of the board of supervisors of the county of Kings, with all the powers and authority of a supervisor of said county, and shall possess all the jurisdiction and exercise all the powers and authority in criminal cases, of a justice of the peace, in addition to the powers heretofore given him by this act: but shall receive no fees for his services as such justice of the peace, (except as hereinafter provided,) nor for his services as supervisor. It shall be his duty:

1. To communicate to the common council at their first meeting in the month of January in each year, and oftener if he shall deem it expedient, a general statement of the situation and condition of the city, in relation to its government, finances and improvements, with such recommendations as he may deem proper.

2. To be vigilant and active in causing the laws and ordinances of the city to be duly executed and enforced, and to exercise a constant supervision over the conduct and acts of all subordinate officers, and to examine into all complaints preferred against them for a violation or neglect of duty; to preserve the peace of the city, and generally to perform all such duties as may be required of him by law, for which purpose he shall have and possess all the authority and power in criminal cases, to arrest and commit for examination all offenders for offences committed within said city against the laws of this state, of a police magistrate or justice of the peace of any of the towns of this state; and shall have the power and authority to issue warrants against any and all persons violating any of the ordinances and by-laws or regulations of the common council, or of the board of health, to direct the proper officers to arrest such persons, and summarily to hear, try and determine, and dispose of the same, where the penalty imposed by said ordinance, by-law or regulations shall not exceed ten dollars; and in case the penalty imposed by said ordinance, by-law or regulation shall not be paid forthwith upon such person being adjudged guilty, then the said mayor shall have power, by warrant under his hand and seal, to commit the said offender to the county jail of Kings county, for a term not exceeding thirty days; or until the fine is paid. And in all cases where such person shall hold a license or warrant granted by the common council, or any of the officers thereof, it shall be lawful for the said mayor to suspend said license or warrant, or the person so found guilty, from the benefits and privileges of said license or warrant until the common council shall pass upon the same; and it shall be the duty of the mayor to

report the fact of such suspension, together with his reason therefor, to the common council at the next meeting thereof; and no person so suspended shall be entitled to any benefits, privileges or rights under said license or warrant, until the suspension shall be removed by the common council.

§ 7. Whenever there shall be a vacancy in the office of mayor, or whenever the mayor shall be prevented by absence from the city, by sickness, or any other cause, from attending to the duties of his office, the president of the common council, or if the said president shall be absent or disabled, the president to be elected pro tempore, shall act as mayor, and possess all the rights and powers of the mayor during the vacancy in office caused by the absence or disability of the mayor, or of the president of the common council; and the said president shall receive the same compensation as the mayor while acting in such capacity.

§ 8. There shall be a comptroller, who shall be elected every two years. He shall render to the common council, as often as required, a full and detailed statement of all the receipts and disbursements of the city government from time to time, specifying the amounts expended and unexpended on each appropriation made by the board of finance, with the state of each account, together with a general statement of the liabilities and resources of the city, and such other information as may be necessary to a full understanding of the financial affairs of the city. He shall also, under the direction of the common council, prepare the annual statement hereinbefore directed to be published, and manage all the financial concerns of the corporation, and of the several departments thereof, in addition to such duties as may be required of him by law, and the ordinances of the common council, and shall be entitled to receive such salary as the board of finance shall determine, and by consent of the common council may appoint a deputy comptroller, for whose acts he shall be responsible.

§ 9. There shall be a commissioner of streets and repairs, who shall be elected every two years. He shall perform all such services as may be directed in relation to the opening, widening, or regulating, grading, paving and repairing streets and avenues, building and repairing sewers, wharves and piers, digging and building wells, cisterns and reservoirs, with such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed for him by the common council. He shall, under the direction of the common council, have charge of all repairs and supplies, and shall receive and have charge of all maps, books, and papers appertaining to his department, and shall be entitled

to such salary as the board of finance shall determine, and by consent of the common council may, when necessary, appoint a deputy, for whose acts he shall be responsible.

§ 10. There shall be a treasurer, who shall be elected every two years. He shall receive, safely keep and disburse, under the direction of the common council, all moneys belonging to the city. He shall also keep an accurate account of all receipts and payments, and make weekly returns thereof, in such manner as the common council shall direct. The common council shall make orders for the payment of all moneys to be drawn out of the treasury, and no money shall be drawn or paid out of the treasury except in pursuance of such orders appropriating the same, and upon warrants signed by the mayor or acting mayor and comptroller, and countersigned by the city clerk, or in his absence by his assistant.—Such warrants shall specify for what purpose the amount therein mentioned is to be paid, the appropriation against which it is drawn, and the date of the ordinance making the same; and the said clerk shall keep an accurate account of all orders directing moneys to be drawn from the treasury, in a book to be provided for that purpose.

§ 11. There shall be elected every two years, an attorney and counsel for the corporation. He shall have the management, charge and control of all the law business of the corporation, and the departments thereof, and of all the law business in which the city shall be interested; draw all leases, deeds, and other legal papers for the city, and shall be the legal adviser of the mayor and common council, and the several departments of the corporation; he shall have the charge, management and control of, and shall conduct all the proceedings necessary in opening, widening, altering, or closing streets, avenues, parks, roads or lanes, and all other local improvements of the same kind. He shall receive from the common council such an annual salary as the board of finance shall determine, to be paid quarterly, exclusive of all disbursements, and in full for all services rendered or performed by him in virtue of his office, including all attorney and counsel fees arising, or which may accrue on any proceedings for any local improvement or otherwise; all which fees shall belong to and be paid into the city treasury, and the salary aforesaid shall be in lieu of all fees and perquisites whatever.

§ 12. There shall be elected every two years a city clerk, who shall perform such duties as the common council may prescribe, and shall in addition to the duties in this act

required of him, have charge of all the papers and documents of the city, countersign all licenses granted by the mayor or the board of excise, and keep the record of the proceedings of the common council. He shall perform all the duties of the clerks of the several towns of this state not inconsistent with this act. He shall engross all the ordinances of the common council in a book to be provided for that purpose with proper indexes, which book shall be deemed a public record of such ordinances, and each ordinance shall be signed by the mayor or acting mayor and said clerk. Copies of all papers duly filed in his office and transcripts thereof, and of the records of proceedings of the common council, and copies of the laws or ordinances of the said city certified by him under the corporate seal, shall be evidence in all courts and places with the like effect the originals would have if produced.

§ 13. The common council may annually appoint so many city surveyors as it shall deem proper, and fix their compensation for services, in the opening or grading of any street, avenue, square, or making any other local improvement, and in all other cases in which they may be employed by the common council, and shall require from them bonds with such penalties as they deem sufficient to secure the faithful performance of all their duties.

§ 14. There shall be annually elected in each ward one constable, who shall perform such duties as are by law prescribed to constables in other towns and counties of this state in civil cases, and shall be entitled to similar fees therefor, but no constable shall be compelled to execute any criminal process, or do any other criminal business, nor shall any constable be entitled to receive any compensation for services in criminal cases.

§ 15. At the annual election for charter officers, first to be held under this act, there shall be elected from each ward one assessor; the assessors so elected shall together constitute a board of assessors, one of whose term of office shall expire in each year. The assessor elected for the first ward shall hold his office for one year, the one so elected for the second ward for two years, and the one so elected for the third ward for three years; and at each and every succeeding annual election there shall be elected one assessor to fill the vacancy occasioned in said board, and the assessors elected after the first annual election to be held under this act shall respectively hold office for the term of three years.

§ 16. The said board shall perform all the duties and possess all the powers conferred upon assessors in the different

towns of this state, provided however, that it shall be lawful for the assessors to substitute for the name of the owner of any lands which they may be required to assess, the words "unknown owner" in all cases where they shall make and annex to their assessment roll an affidavit that after having made diligent search and inquiry they have not been able to ascertain the name of the owner; and provided further, that in the assessment of any lands in said city, it shall be a sufficient description of the premises to be assessed to designate them by the numbers of the lots respectively on the assessment map of the ward or city, together with the name of the street on which the same are situated. No tax, or the sale thereunder, shall be rendered invalid in consequence of a mistake in the assessment roll as to the ownership of the premises charged with such tax in any case where the premises are correctly described; and such tax may be lawfully collected from the person who was, or appears of record, to have been the actual owner of such premises at the time the assessment roll was certified.

§ 17. The said board, after making out their assessment, shall leave the same in the office of the city clerk; they shall then give notice by posting handbills and by publishing the same in the newspapers employed by the corporation, that the assessment rolls are completed, and are left in the office of the city clerk, where the same may be seen and examined by any person interested, during thirty days, and that the board will meet on a certain day, to be named in said notice, at the expiration of said thirty days, at the office of the city clerk, to review their assessment on the application of any person conceiving himself aggrieved. The said board shall grant relief to persons aggrieved in the manner and upon the evidence prescribed by law, and adjourn from time to time as often as necessary, until they shall have disposed of all reasonable objections. They shall then make two fair copies of said assessment rolls, confirm, sign and certify the same, and deliver one of said copies to one of the supervisors of the city of Williamsburgh, who shall lay the same before the board of supervisors of the county of Kings, at their next meeting and within the time prescribed by law; and the other of said copies to the city clerk to be filed in his office. The common council shall use the copy filed with the city clerk, for the purpose of levying and collecting the city taxes for the current year, subject, however, to any equalizing correction therein, that may be made by said board of supervisors.

§ 18. The board of finance shall fix an annual compensa-

tion for such assessors, to be levied in the annual tax and the common council may, by ordinance, regulate their duties under the foregoing provisions.

§ 19. All provisions of law now applicable to the assessors of the village of Williamsburgh, or towns of this state in relation to the assessment and collection of taxes in said village, not inconsistent with this act, are hereby declared to apply to the board of assessors elected under this act.

§ 20. There shall be elected every two years a sealer of weights and measures, who shall perform all the duties and possess all the powers belonging to the town sealers of this state, and also such other powers and duties relating to his office as may from time to time be conferred and imposed upon him by the common council. He shall be entitled to receive for his services such compensation as is or may be allowed by law to the several town sealers in this state for similar services.

§ 21. The official terms of the several persons who shall be elected in pursuance of this act, shall commence on the first Monday of January next after their election; and the official terms of all persons who shall be appointed to any office or place in pursuance of this act shall commence as follows:

1 Such as are required to give security for the performance of their duties from the time such security shall be given and approved.

2 Such as are not required to give security from the time they shall have taken and filed the oath hereafter mentioned.

§ 22. The common council in a meeting, on the first Monday of January, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and from time to time as may be necessary, shall by ballot appoint so many fire wardens, pound masters, surveyors, and clerks of departments as they shall deem it expedient to appoint. All persons so appointed shall hold their respective offices until the first Monday of January next after their appointment, and until their successors shall have been appointed and have qualified, unless sooner removed for official misconduct, or unless their time of office is specially provided for in this act.

§ 23. The treasurer of the city, comptroller, street commissioner, city surveyor, city clerk, and such other officers as the common council shall direct, shall severally execute a bond to the corporation in such penalty as the said common council shall require, with such sureties as said common council shall approve, conditioned for the faithful performance of their respective duties, and for accounting and paying over all moneys by them respectively received in their official capaci-

ties ; in case such officers shall refuse or neglect for ten days after they are notified of their election or appointment, to execute and deliver to the city clerk the bond herein required, such neglect or refusal shall be immediately reported to the said common council, who may thereupon declare such office vacant, and forthwith proceed to appoint another in his place.

§ 24. The constables elected by the several wards shall also, with such sureties as the said common council shall approve, severally execute and file with the city clerk a bond for the faithful performance of their duties, and for the due payment to every person who may be entitled thereto, of all such sums of money as such constable may become liable to pay, by means of, or on account of any execution or other process which shall be delivered to him for collection.

§ 25. The sureties referred to in the last two preceding sections, shall justify in such form as the common council shall prescribe, and the bonds thereby required, after having been duly approved, shall be filed in the office of the city clerk, except that the bond of the city clerk shall be filed in the office of the comptroller, before any one of the officers required to execute the same, shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices.

§ 26. Every person elected or appointed to any office in pursuance of this act, or of any law or ordinance of the common council, shall before he enters upon the duties of such office, take and subscribe before the mayor, city clerk, or some person authorized to administer the same, the constitutional oath of office of this state, and file the same in the office of the city clerk, and if any such person shall neglect to take such oath for ten days after receiving notice of his election or appointment, or, shall neglect for the like space of time to give such security as may be required of him, he shall be considered as having declined such office, and the same shall be deemed vacant ; and if, and whenever any vacancy shall occur in any of the offices to which, by this act, the common council may make appointments, it shall proceed to appoint suitable persons to fill such vacancies.

§ 27. The common council shall grant and pay to the several officers, assessors, clerks, or other subordinates elected or appointed under or in pursuance of this act, except to aldermen, justices of the peace and constables, such stated salaries or compensation as may, previous to their election or appointment, be fixed by the board of finance ; but such salaries shall be, instead of all fees and perquisites for services to be per-

formed by such officers; and all such fees and perquisites shall be collected and paid to the treasurer of the city, for the use of the city, by every such officer and clerk, monthly, under oath, to be filed with the comptroller, before he shall be entitled to receive any such salary; but no officer's salary shall be either increased or diminished after his election, and during his continuance in office.

§ 28. Any officer elected under this act may resign his office by giving notice in writing of his intention to the city clerk, and publishing a copy of such notice in the corporation newspapers. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in any of said offices, except in the office of an alderman, whether caused by death removal or otherwise, the common council may proceed by ballot to fill the vacancy until the ensuing charter election, when a person shall be elected for the balance, if any, of the term so vacated.

§ 29. Any officer may be removed from office for misconduct by the resolution of the common council, provided that no such removal shall take place until the party sought to be removed has had an opportunity to be heard on his defence, nor unless two-thirds of all the members elected respectively vote therefor. Whenever any such removal shall take place, the cause thereof, together with the ayes and noes upon the vote taken shall be entered at large upon the journal of the common council.

§ 30. If any person, having been an officer of the said city, shall not within ten days after he shall have vacated or been removed from office, and upon notification and request by the city clerk, or within such time thereafter as the common council shall allow, deliver over to his successors in office, all the property, books and papers belonging to the city, or appertaining to such office, in his possession, or under his control, he shall forfeit and pay to the city the sum of five hundred dollars to be sued for and recovered with costs.

§ 31. No member of the common council shall, during the period for which he was elected, be appointed to, or competent to hold any office the emoluments of which are paid from the city treasury.

TITLE IV.

OF IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS THEREFOR.

SECTION 1. The common council shall have power, under the restrictions and limitations hereinafter mentioned, to cause streets and avenues to be opened and widened in not

more than three sections, and to be regulated, graded and paved; sidewalks to be flagged, and curb and gutter stones set, and to cause public squares and parks to be opened, regulated, ornamented and protected, and streets and avenues to be kept in repair, and from time to time to be repaved, and sidewalks to be reflagged and curb and gutter stones to be reset; to provide that lamp-posts and lamps be erected, and cisterns made for the purpose of furnishing water in case of fire; to cause sewers and drains, wells and pumps to be constructed and repaired, and generally to make such other improvements in and about such streets, avenues and squares, as the public want and convenience shall require. The expense of all such improvements, except for repairs, and erecting lamp posts and lamps, shall be assessed and be a lien on the property benefited thereby in proportion to the amount of said benefit.

§ 2. No proceedings shall be taken to open or widen any street, park, avenue or square, or to regulate, grade or pave any street or avenue, unless upon petition, signed by one-third of the persons owning land situated within the assessment limits hereinafter provided; and all public streets and squares, and streets and squares to be opened and widened by the proceedings under these provisions, or to be ceded to and accepted by the common council, shall be under the jurisdiction, management and control of the said common council, for the purpose of making the improvements before mentioned, as the public wants and convenience shall require, and for all purposes mentioned in or necessary for the fully carrying into effect all the provisions of this act, and the powers granted to the common council by this or any other act.

§ 3. Whenever a petition for opening or widening any street, avenue, park or square, in said city, signed by one-third of the persons owning land situated on the line of the same shall be presented, the common council of said city shall cause a notice to be published in the corporation newspapers, that such application has been made, and of the time (which shall not be less than thirty days after the first publication of such notice,) when they will proceed on said petition, which notice shall be published daily for three weeks successively, and unless a remonstrance signed by a majority of the persons who will be assessed for the expenses thereof, shall be presented to them on or before the day specified in said notice, and if they shall deem the application proper, they may, on the day specified in said notice, or as soon thereafter as may be, by a resolution decide to allow such improvement to be made. Before giving notice of the pendency of such application, the common

council shall fix the limit or district of assessment, beyond which the assessment shall not extend; and a description of such limit or district shall be inserted in, and form part of such notice. If the common council shall deem it proper to permit such improvement to be made, they shall cause application to be made to the county court of the county of Kings, after publishing notice thereof, for two weeks, in the official newspapers, or to the supreme court, at a special term held in the county, for the appointment of three persons as commissioners to estimate and assess the expense of said improvement, and the amount of damages and benefit to be sustained and derived therefrom by the owners of such lands and buildings as may be affected thereby. The owners of property liable to assessment shall have the right to nominate, in writing, to the court, persons qualified as hereinafter mentioned, to serve as commissioners; and the said court shall thereupon appoint from among the persons so nominated, if any, three persons as such commissioners, who shall not be interested in the improvement, and shall be owners of a freehold estate in said city liable to taxation; the said court may also appoint another or others, to act in the place of any one or more of such commissioners who may die, decline serving, remove from the city, be or become interested in the improvement, or from any cause may be disabled from serving.

§ 4. The persons so applying, and who shall have signed a petition for any such improvement, shall be chargeable with, and are hereby declared liable for all charges and expenses which may accrue on such application, if the same is refused by the common council.

§ 5. The common council shall cause a map to be made by a competent surveyor, on which map shall be designated by feet and inches, as near as may be, the several pieces of land and premises necessary to be taken for the improvement, and of any residue of lots or pieces of land within the district of assessment, of which only a part will be required of the same; and also the several pieces of land and premises within the district of assessment laid out by the said common council, which said several pieces of land shall be numbered in figures from one upwards; and the map aforesaid shall form and constitute a part of the report of the commissioners of estimate and assessment, and shall be deposited with the report for examination in the office of the street commissioner.

§ 6. The said commissioners shall be sworn before some officer authorized to administer oaths, faithfully and impartially to perform the duties which shall devolve upon them

by virtue of said appointment, and shall then proceed with all reasonable diligence to make the estimate and assessment mentioned in the preceding section; and for this purpose they shall have power to enter upon and examine any premises which in their opinion will be affected by the said improvement, to hear the proofs and allegations of the parties interested, at such time and place as they may appoint, and to continue such hearing by adjournment from time to time as they may deem proper.

§ 7. The report of said commissioners shall be made in a tabular form, with columns, in which shall be distinctly given the whole expense of the proposed improvement, and the several items thereof, the number on the map of the pieces of land required for the improvement, and of any residue lots or pieces of land within the district of assessment, of which only a part will be required for the same; the number of the pieces of land assessed for benefits; the names of persons interested in the property taken or assessed for the improvement; the amount awarded to the different parties interested in the lands and premises required for the improvement; the amount assessed on each piece of land, and on the different interests therein; the balance of award to be received by the respective parties over the assessment; the balance of assessment to be paid by each individual whose assessments amount to more than the award; and so many and such other different columns and tabular statements as may be necessary to designate the true interests of the parties in the lands and premises required for the improvement, and their liabilities in relation thereto: Provided, however, that it shall be lawful for the commissioners to substitute in their report for the name of the owner of any lands taken or assessed, the words "unknown owners," in all cases where they shall make and annex to their report an affidavit that after having made diligent search and inquiry they have been unable to ascertain the name of the owner, stating also the facts and circumstances relative to such search and inquiry.

§ 8. When a residue shall be left of any lot or lots necessary to be taken for such improvement, the said commissioners may, in cases where injury or injustice would otherwise be done, and with the consent in writing of the owner or owners of such lot or lots, include the whole or any part of such residue in their report, (briefly describing the same,) and estimate separately the value thereof. Every such residue or part of a residue, which shall be so included, shall, upon the

confirmation of the said report as hereinafter provided, and the payment or tender of the amount at which the same shall be so estimated, to the owner or owners thereof, vest in fee simple in the city of Williamsburgh, who shall thereupon sell and dispose of the same, at a price or prices not less than the sum at which it shall have been so estimated, to the owner or owners of the next adjacent lands; and if he or they shall not, upon reasonable notice to be determined by the common council of said city, elect to take the same at such price or prices, it shall be disposed of at public auction, upon such notice as the common council shall deem proper, for the best price or prices that can be obtained for the same. In case the same shall sell for a less sum than that at which its value was estimated by the commissioners, the deficiency shall be deemed a part of the general amount of loss and expense arising from the improvement. And for the purpose of providing for the event of such deficiency, and for the payment of the amount thereof, the commissioners shall include in the estimate and assessment of the expenses of such improvement, the estimated value of any such residue or part of a residue which may be included as aforesaid in their report; and upon the sale of the same, as above provided, the proceeds thereof shall be credited and allowed to each of the persons assessed, in proportion to the amount of the respective assessments against them.

§ 9. In other cases in which part only of the land and premises of any person or persons will be required for such proposed improvement, the fair estimated benefit to be derived by him, her or them, in common with others, from the said improvement, shall be assessed and be a lien upon the residue of such lands and premises, but such assessment shall, in no case, exceed the value of such residue, and if in the opinion of the court to whom said report shall be presented for confirmation, as hereinafter provided, any assessment shall exceed such value, it shall be good cause against confirming the said report.

§ 10. When all the land and premises of any person or persons will be required for the contemplated improvement, or where part only thereof will be required, and the estimated damage, to be sustained by the appropriation of such part to the purposes thereof, shall exceed the fair estimated benefit which in common with others, he, she, or they will derive from the said improvement, the amount of the estimated damages in the first case and of the excess of such estimated dam-

ages in the last, shall be assessed and be a lien on other lands and premises according to the estimated benefit to be derived by them from the said improvement.

§ 11. The said commissioners shall also estimate in their said report any damages arising from the said improvement, which may be sustained by the owner or owners of any land bounded on a public highway, by reason of the location of the proposed street, avenue, or square, in such manner as to interpose the land of any other person between such proposed street, avenue, or square, and the said highway; and the amount of such estimated damages shall be assessed and be a lien on other lands and premises according to the benefit to be derived by them respectively from the said improvement.

§ 12. After said report shall be completed, it shall be deposited by the said commissioners, in the office of the commissioner of streets and repairs. They shall then cause a notice to be published that the report has been completed and filed, and that they will meet at a time and place therein to be specified, not less than ten days from the first publication of such notice, to review their report. During that time the said report may be examined, free of expense, by all persons interested; and at the time and place so specified, any such person may offer objections in writing to the said report, and accompany the same with such affidavits as he may think proper. The said commissioners shall thereupon, or as soon as conveniently may be thereafter, review their said report, and correct the same where they shall deem proper, and shall then file the same in the office of the commissioner of streets and repairs. The common council shall then cause a notice to be published in the newspapers employed by the said corporation, that the said report has been so completed and filed, and that application will be made on behalf of the said common council, to the county court of the county of Kings, or to the supreme court at one of the special terms thereof, the time to be specified in such notice, (and in either case not less than ten days from the first publication thereof,) to have the said report confirmed. During the said space of ten days the said report shall remain open to the inspection, free of expense, of all persons interested; and any such person may, within that time, appeal from said report. Such appeal shall be by notice to be served on the city clerk of the said common council, within the period last mentioned, and at least six days before the time at which the said report is to be presented to the court for confirmation, which notice shall be accompanied with copies of the affidavits which shall have been delivered to the commissioners (if it shall be intended to use or refer to copies thereof on such appeal,) and also with a brief

statement in writing, of the grounds of objection to such report and of the manner in which it is contended that the same ought to be altered.

§ 13. Such appeal shall be heard by the court, to which the said report shall be presented for confirmation, at the time the same shall be so presented; copies of the affidavits which shall have been delivered and served as aforesaid, (but no others) may be read against confirming the said report, but no cause against such confirmation shall be heard, except an appeal shall have been made in the manner provided in the preceding section of this act. If no sufficient reason to the contrary shall appear to the court, they shall confirm the said report; or if, in their opinion, the same ought not to be confirmed, they may refuse so to do, and in the event of such a refusal, they shall in the proper cases, refer it back, for revision and correction, to the same or other commissioners, who shall proceed to revise or correct the same, and cause it or a new report to be filed in the office of the commissioner of streets and repairs. The common council shall thereupon cause a new notice to be published in the manner required in the preceding section of this act of the filing of such report, and of their intention to apply for the confirmation thereof. The said report may be appealed from within the time, and in the manner provided in the said section, and such appeal shall be proceeded upon, and the said report again disposed of, in the manner directed by this section, and so often as any such report shall be referred back for revision and correction, the like proceedings shall be thereupon had as are provided in this section, upon a first reference back to the said commissioners. In all cases, however, where the said court shall direct specific alterations to be made therein, and such alterations shall be made in its presence, they may thereupon absolutely confirm the said report without further notice.

§ 14. After the reports of the commissioners shall be confirmed, the said reports shall be delivered to the common council of said city, who shall be thereupon authorized to cause such improvements to be made. At any time within the space of thirty days next after the confirmation of the said report any person from whom any assessment contained therein may be due, may pay the amount thereof, without any additional expense for collecting, to the collector of taxes and assessments. All such assessments which shall be unpaid at the expiration of that period, shall be collected by the collector of taxes and assessments, and in the manner herein and by this act provided.

§ 15. The comptroller shall pay to the persons (or to the attorneys or legal representatives of such persons) to whom

damages may have been awarded in such report, the amount of such damages, without any deduction therefrom by way of fee or commission.

§ 16. The commissioners of estimate and assessment to be appointed as aforesaid shall be allowed three dollars for each and every day while actually and necessarily employed in and about their duties, and such compensation and the fees and charges of surveyors and other persons shall be estimated as part of the expenses of the improvement, and be afterwards taxed or certified by the county judge, or some officer authorized to tax costs in the supreme court of this state.

§ 17. If the estimate of the expenses shall exceed the amount of expenses which shall be actually incurred in making the improvement, such excess shall be refunded or allowed to the persons assessed, in proportion to the amount of their respective assessments.

§ 18. In any case of opening, widening, or extending any street, avenue, or square, under the provisions of this act, the county court of the county of Kings, or the county judge thereof, in term or vacation, or a justice of the supreme court shall have power, on application, to appoint guardians for infants, or other incompetent persons, in the nature of guardians ad litem, to protect their interests, or prosecute appeals; who shall be entitled to receive five dollars for their services and attendance before the commissioners, and no other fees or costs unless upon an appeal, in which case the judge who shall hear the appeal shall fix upon the further amount to be allowed them, if any, and shall certify the same.

§ 19. The costs and fees of the attorney and counsel in any such proceeding, exclusive of his disbursements, shall not exceed in any case the sum of two hundred dollars, unless on appeal, or when the report is sent back to the commissioners, and in such case the judge who heard the appeal may allow such further sum in addition to the taxed or certified bills as he may deem just and proper, all of which shall be paid into the city treasury for the use of the city.

§ 20. All assessments for improvements in said city, when the same shall have been confirmed according to the provisions of this act, shall constitute and be a lien upon the property assessed from the time of such confirmation, which lien shall have priority over all other liens or incumbrances.

§ 21. The expense of regulating, grading and paving streets or avenues, or any part or section thereof, of constructing and erecting sewers and drains, wells and pumps, fire cisterns, flagging and reflagging sidewalks, setting and resetting curb and gutter stones, and of fencing or tilling in lots, and all other improvements, of a like nature, not before specified, shall

be apportioned and assessed by commissioners to be appointed as hereinafter directed.

§ 22. Prior to the passage of any ordinance for such purpose the common council shall cause a plain and accurate specification of the work proposed to be constructed, to be prepared and placed in the office of the street commissioner for public inspection. It shall then cause notice to be published in the official newspapers, that on a day therein to be named, at least two weeks from the first publication thereof, the common council will act in relation to the work proposed to be constructed, and in the mean time sealed proposals for constructing the work, with bonds for the faithful performance thereof, will be received by the street commissioner. Before publishing such notice the common council shall fix the limit or district of assessment, beyond which the assessment shall not extend, and a description of such district shall form part of such notice. Upon the day mentioned in the notice, or upon such other day as the common council may adjourn to for that purpose, the city clerk shall, in the presence of the common council, open the sealed proposals for constructing the work. No proposals shall be considered which shall not be accompanied by a bond with sureties, and in a penalty, both to be approved by the common council, conditioned that if the proposal be accepted, the persons proposing will construct the work at the price, and upon the terms proposed, according to the plans and specifications therefor in the street commissioner's office, within such reasonable time as the common council may limit, and subject to the supervision and approval, in writing, of the street commissioner, or his deputy. The common council shall then determine whose is the most favorable proposal, and may then, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, to be ascertained by taking and recording the ayes and noes, authorize and direct the construction of the proposed work, and accept the most favorable proposal.

§ 23. Upon a copy of the ordinances of the common council directing the construction of the proposed work, certified by the city clerk, and approved by the mayor, the common council shall cause application to be made to the county court of the county of Kings, or to the supreme court, at a special term held in said county, for the appointment of three persons as commissioners, who shall be owners of a freehold estate, in the city of Williamsburgh, liable to taxation, and not interested in the said improvement. The court shall thereupon appoint three persons as commissioners.

§ 24. Each commissioner, so appointed, shall immediately, upon receiving notice of his appointment, take an oath before some officer authorized to administer oaths, faithfully and

fairly to discharge the duties which shall devolve upon him by such appointment, and the said commissioners shall thereupon proceed to view the premises, and shall assess the expense of said improvement upon the several lots, pieces or parcels of land benefitted, in proportion to the benefit which in their opinion the same shall derive from or in justice ought to be assessed for the said improvement: Provided, however, that it shall be lawful for said commissioners to substitute in their report for the name of the owner of any land assessed the words "unknown owner," in all cases where they shall make and annex to their report an affidavit that after having made diligent inquiry they have not been able to ascertain the name of the owner, stating the facts and circumstances relative to such inquiry.

§ 25. The said commissioners shall make a report, in writing, of the assessment so made, and before proceeding to sign the same shall give notice in the corporation newspapers, which notice shall be published once in each week for four weeks successively, of the time and place when and where the parties interested can be heard; and after hearing the parties, the commissioners shall proceed and complete the report and sign the same, and return the said report with all objections in writing which shall be presented to and left with them, by any of the parties interested, to the common council, who shall refer the same, in case of any objections in writing, to the proper committee of the board, the said committee shall give notice in writing, to be served ten days previous to the day of hearing, to the parties making such objections, of the time and place when and where they will meet to hear them on the objections and report; the said commissioners shall meet with the said committee and explain, if necessary, their report.

§ 26. The said committee shall thereupon examine the matter and report to the common council, and shall return to them the said report of the commissioners, with the objections of the parties, together with the views and opinions of the committee respecting the said report.

§ 27. The common council shall thereupon examine the matter, correct the said report and assessment, send it back to the same commissioners or confirm the same, as they may deem just and proper.

§ 28. And the like proceedings shall be had when the report of the commissioners is sent back as in the first instance.

§ 29. The common council shall determine upon and fix the amount of compensation to be paid the commissioners in all such proceedings, and the amount to be paid them, together

with the expenses and per centage, shall be added to form any part of the amount to be assessed for such improvement.

§ 30. An error or mistake made by the commissioners to be appointed under this title, as to the ownership or description of any premises mentioned or referred to in their report, shall not affect or render invalid any other part or portion of their report than so much as is erroneously designated or described.

§ 31. The common council shall have power, on the written application of any party interested, in the manner hereinafter provided, to alter the grade of any street or avenue in all or any part thereof, provided that before finally determining to make such alteration, they shall cause a profile showing the intended alteration to be made, and placed in the office of the street commissioner for public inspection, and shall cause a notice to be published in the official newspapers once in each week for four consecutive weeks, setting forth their intention to make such alteration, and requiring all persons interested therein to present their objections in writing to the common council, at a time and place to be mentioned in said notice, after the expiration of four weeks from the first publication thereof. After the expiration of the time named in said notice, the common council may, by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of all the members elected, alter such grade. In case the owner or owners of any building, or the authorized attorney of such owner or owners, shall, within six weeks after the passage of any ordinance altering the grade of any street or avenue, present to the common council, in writing, a claim for damages to such building arising from such alteration, it shall then be the duty of the common council to cause application to be made to the county court of the county of Kings or to the supreme court at a special term thereof held in said county, for the appointment of three persons as commissioners to estimate and assess the expense of said improvement and the amount of damages and benefits to be sustained and derived therefrom by the owners of such lands and buildings as may be affected thereby. The said court shall thereupon appoint three commissioners possessing the qualifications required by the third section of this title, and may, from time to time, fill any vacancy that may arise in such commission. The said commissioners thereupon shall proceed to estimate and assess such expenses, damages and benefits, and make and complete their report thereof in the same manner and with the like effect that commissioners are required in and by this title to, estimate, assess and report the expenses, damages or benefits of opening or widening streets, and the like proceeding shall thereupon be had as are provided in and by sections twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seven-

teen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty and twenty-one of this title.

§ 32. Whenever any street shall be paved or flagged, the owners of property to be assessed for such improvement may recommend to the common council a suitable person as inspector for that particular work, who shall be appointed for that purpose. In case the owners recommend more than one, the common council shall select one from the number recommended, who shall be the inspector.

TITLE V.

OF THE COLLECTION OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS.

SEC. 1. There shall be elected at the first charter election to be held under this act, and in every second year thereafter, a collector who shall hold his office for the term of two years, and until another person shall be elected in his place and be duly qualified, who shall be called the collector of taxes and assessments in the city of Williamsburgh, and have the same powers as the several collectors of towns in the state. He shall keep an office in such place in the said city as the common council shall provide, which shall be open for the transaction of business during such hours as the common council shall designate, on each day in the year except Sundays, and such holidays as shall be observed by the general custom of said city or by recommendation of public authority. He may, with the consent of the common council, appoint a deputy, for whose acts he shall be responsible.

§ 2. The said collector shall execute a bond to the city of Williamsburgh with at least two sureties, who shall be freeholders in the county of Kings, in such penalty as the common council shall direct, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office and accounting and paying over as directed by law, all moneys which shall be received by him as such collector. Such sureties shall severally justify under oath to be endorsed on said bond, in sums which together shall constitute at least double the amount of the penalty of the bond to be approved by the common council. The bond shall be filed with the city clerk, and if not filed within twenty days after the collector shall be notified of his election, his office shall be deemed vacant, and no collector shall enter upon the duties of his office until such bond shall be duly executed, approved and filed. The collector's sureties shall also be renewed during his term of office, whenever and as often as the common council shall direct, and if not so renewed within

twenty days after notice to the collector, his office shall be deemed vacant.

§ 3. The common council may, by resolution, suspend the collector for official neglect or misconduct, in which case they shall immediately cause written notice, with a copy of the charges thereof, to be left at his office; they shall then proceed to investigate the charges against him, and if such charges are sustained, may remove him from office, in the manner heretofore provided for the removal of other officers of the city government.

§ 4. There shall be added to and included in every assessment, assessed in the city of Williamsburgh, the sum of two per cent. upon the amount of such assessment, for the expense of collection, which shall be for the use of said city. The collector shall also collect and receive for the use of the city, the fees now allowed by law to the collectors of the village of Williamsburgh for collecting the state, county, town and school tax, and included in the warrants and tax lists directed to him by the supervisors of Kings county. He shall keep a separate account of the per centage and fees collected by him under the provisions of this section, and shall from time to time and as often as required by the common council, render the same to the comptroller verified by his oath, in such form as the common council shall prescribe.

§ 5. The board of finance shall fix the salary or other compensation to be paid to the collector, and the common council shall pay the same to him out of the moneys raised by tax for city purposes, and the said collector shall not receive any other or further compensation for services, but the common council shall provide for said collector an office, and all necessary desks, furniture, fuel, lights, books, and blank forms.

§ 6. If any collector shall convert to his own use, in any way whatever, or shall use by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan in any way any portion of the moneys received or collected by him as such collector, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of said moneys as shall be thus taken, invested, used or loaned, which is hereby declared to be a felony, punishable by imprisonment in a state prison for a term not exceeding five years.

§ 7. The board of supervisors of the county of Kings and the common council of the city of Williamsburgh, shall cause the corrected assessment rolls of the several wards, or fair copies thereof, with the warrants for collection, to be delivered to the collector, on or before the first day of October in each year; and the common council shall cause every assessment

roll made for any improvement in said city, or fair copies thereof, with a warrant for collection, to be delivered to said collector, within ten days after the same shall be finally confirmed. But no warrant for the collection of any assessment shall be issued by the common council, until all the proceedings had in laying said assessment shall have been examined, and certified as correct by the street commissioner, and the attorney and counsel of the city, which certificate shall be endorsed upon, or annexed to the assessment roll.

§ 8. The warrants of the board of supervisors shall be under their hands and seals, or the hands and seals of a majority of them, and shall require the collector, out of the moneys to be collected in each school district of the city, to pay to the trustees of the school in such districts such sums as shall be raised for school purposes in the district, and to the county treasurer the residue of the moneys to be collected by said warrant within one hundred and eighty days from the date of such warrant, but no moneys shall be paid by the collector to such school trustees until they shall have given to the city such security for the faithful disbursement thereof as may be required and approved by the common council. The warrants of the common council shall be signed by the mayor, or acting mayor, and shall be under the corporate seal of the city, attested by the clerk, and shall require the collector to pay the moneys to be collected to the city treasurer, within one hundred and eighty days from the date thereof, and to collect from the several persons named in the tax list or assessment roll annexed thereto, the several sums mentioned in the last column of such list or roll opposite to their respective names, and shall not be renewable.

§ 9. As soon as practicable, after the annual tax rolls shall have been delivered to the collector, he shall, in books to be provided for that purpose, prepare an abstract of said rolls, adding thereto all such taxes and assessments as shall, from time to time thereafter, become chargeable upon such property, to the end that said abstract shall at all times exhibit in a condensed form all existing charges against the property as accurately as practicable.

§ 10. The collector shall receive the taxes and assessment mentioned in said rolls, and shall, as often as required by the comptroller, and at least once in each week after receiving the same, render to the comptroller of the city a just and true account of moneys which shall have been received by him for taxes or assessments for city purposes, or for local improvements, and pay over the same to the city treasurer. He shall also every month, and as much oftener as required by the

county treasurer, render a like account of moneys received for taxes payable to the county treasurer, and at the same time pay over such moneys to the said county treasurer.

§ 11. All taxes and assessments which shall be paid to the collector within thirty days after such tax or assessment roll shall have been delivered to him, shall be received by him without any additional charge; on all taxes or assessments which shall be paid to him after the expiration of thirty days, and within sixty days after such delivery he shall add two per cent. and one per cent. shall be added for every thirty days thereafter until such tax or assessment shall be paid.

§ 12. If any of the taxes mentioned in the assessment rolls annexed to the warrants from the board of supervisors, shall remain unpaid at the expiration of one hundred and eighty days from the time the said assessment rolls shall be delivered to him, and the collector shall not be able to collect the same, he shall deliver to the county treasurer an account of the taxes so remaining due, with an affidavit as required by law of collectors of towns, he shall be credited by the county treasurer with the amount thereof, and if any of the taxes or assessments mentioned in the assessment rolls annexed to his warrants from the common council shall remain unpaid at the expiration of the said one hundred and eighty days, and the collector shall not be able to collect the same, he shall deliver to the comptroller of said city an account of the taxes or assessments so remaining due, with an affidavit that he has not upon diligent enquiry been able to discover any goods or chattels belonging to or in the possession of the person or persons residing in the city of Williamsburgh, charged with or liable to pay the sums mentioned in such account whereon he could levy the same, that he has caused a written or printed notice of such tax or assessment to be served personally on or left at the place of residence of the person or persons charged with or liable to pay such tax or assessment, if a resident of the city, or if not a resident of the city, that he has deposited such notice in the post office in said city, addressed to the person or persons taxed or assessed at his, her or their last known place of residence, or that upon diligent search and enquiry he has been unable to discover such place of residence. Upon the delivery to the comptroller of such account and affidavit the collector shall be credited by the comptroller with the amount of said account.

§ 13. The county treasurer and comptroller respectively shall upon receiving from the collector an account of unpaid taxes or assessments, compare the same with the original assessment roll, and if he find it to be a true transcript thereof, he shall add to it a certificate showing that he had

compared the account with the assessment roll, and found the same correct, and after crediting the collector with the amount, shall, within fifteen days after receiving such account, transmit the account, certified as aforesaid, with the collector's affidavit, to the street commissioner.

§ 14. If the collector shall refuse or neglect to pay to the city treasurer, school trustees, or to the county treasurer, the sums required by his warrants to be paid to them respectively, or either of them, or to account for the same, if unpaid as hereinbefore provided within twenty days after the time when such payment ought to have been made, the common council shall, upon receiving notice thereof from the county treasurer, school trustees, or comptroller, cause the bond of such collector to be put in suit, and shall be entitled to recover the sum due from such collector, with costs of suit; and the moneys recovered shall be applied and paid by the common council in the same manner in which it was the duty of the collector to have applied and paid the same.

§ 15. The county treasurer and comptroller respectively, may receive any tax or assessment, while such accounts are in their hands, and before returning them to the street commissioner, charging the additional per centage thereon, as hereinbefore provided. They shall give a receipt for such payments and make return thereof to such commissioner, and also to the collector of taxes and assessments, who shall note such payment on the original assessment roll or copy thereof in his office.

§ 16. Before any account of unpaid taxes shall be transmitted by the county treasurer or comptroller to the street commissioner, he shall examine them and reject all taxes which shall be found to be charged for personalty or on lands imperfectly described, and shall furnish and transmit a certified statement of the same to the street commissioner, and the supervisors of the county, and shall from time to time furnish to the common council, or its officers a full statement of the taxes remaining unpaid, or of the sale of any lots or pieces of land for taxes, as may be called for by the common council.

§ 17. The said supervisors and common council shall respectively cause the amount of such rejected taxes to be levied in the next assessment rolls, on the taxable property, of the respective wards in which they were before levied, and shall direct the same to be collected with the other taxes next collected in such wards; and the board of assessors shall cause said descriptions to be corrected in the next assessment rolls.

§ 18. Whenever the street commissioner and the attorney and council of the city shall reject any assessment for local improvements, (which they are hereby authorized and empowered to do,) they shall forthwith report the same and the reasons therefor to the common council; and the common council shall, in case they shall have been rejected for irregularity in the proceedings, or for imperfect descriptions of the lands, cause the amount thereof to be re-assessed; and the common council are hereby authorized and empowered to have such re-assessment made in the same manner as the original assessment should have been made; and such re-assessment shall have the same effect as if the assessment had originally been properly made.

§ 19. The common council, in case any such unpaid assessments shall be rejected for want of jurisdiction in making the improvement, shall cause the expense of the proceedings, and all damages consequent thereon, to be added to the amount directed to be laid in the next annual taxes for city purposes, and when collected to be paid to the parties who shall be entitled thereto. Whenever any moneys shall have been paid for an assessment, and a re-assessment shall be made in pursuance of this section, the amount shall be credited on such re-assessment to the property on which the assessment was made; and in case any of alteration on the re-assessment, whereby the amount so paid shall exceed the amount re-assessed on the same property, such surplus shall be repaid to the person who may have paid the same; and in case it shall be insufficient to pay the amount re-assessed, the deficiency shall be collected in the same manner as other assessments.

§ 20. All taxes and assessments imposed, made and confirmed pursuant to this act, shall be a lien and charge upon the lands and premises upon which the same are assessed from the time of such confirmation, which lien shall have priority over all liens and incumbrances.

§ 21. Whenever any tax, or assessment, shall be returned to the street commissioner, certified as aforesaid, and accompanied by the affidavit of the collector, as above provided, the street commissioner shall cause a list thereof to be published in the corporation newspapers, together with a notice that if the same are not paid to the street commissioner, with interest as aforesaid, and expenses, on or before a certain day, to be therein designated, which shall not be less than twelve weeks from the first publication thereof, the lands and tenements upon which, or in respect to which they are imposed, will be sold, at a time and place therein specified, at public auction, to the person who will take the same for the shortest

period, and pay the tax or assessment with the expenses incurred thereon, and of the sale; such list, and notice, shall be published once a week for twelve weeks successively, and shall specify the street, avenue, or road, on which the land taxed or assessed fronts, on which side thereof, and near or between what streets it may lie, together with the name of the person to whom the same was taxed or assessed.

§ 22. Every printer of the newspaper in which such list and notice shall be published, shall, within ten days after the last publication thereof, deliver to the street commissioner an affidavit of due publication, made by himself, or by his foreman or principal clerk to whom the fact of publication shall be known. which affidavit shall be presumptive evidence in all courts and places of the facts therein stated.

§ 23. If any such tax or assessment remain unpaid on the day specified in said notice, the street commissioner shall proceed to sell by public auction, at the city hall of the said city, the property on which said tax or assessment shall have been imposed, for the lowest term of years for which any person will take the same, and pay the amount of such tax or assessment with the interest and expenses, and he shall continue the sale from time to time, until all such lands shall be sold. He shall thereupon deliver to the purchaser a certificate of such sale, and furnish the collector with a memorandum thereof, which shall be noted on the original assessment rolls, and on the abstracts hereinbefore directed to be kept in his office, such certificate of sale shall be recorded in the street commissioner's office in proper books kept for that purpose, and shall constitute a lien upon the lands and premises therein described, after the same shall have been so recorded; and no assignment of any certificate given on the sale of lands for any taxes or assessments, shall have any effect until notice of the same, with the name and residence of the assignee shall be filed in the office of the street commissioner.

§ 24. It shall be lawful for the street commissioner to bid in at such sale, for the use of the city, any lot of land and premises put up, for which no person shall offer to bid, and the street commissioner shall thereupon deliver to the comptroller, for the use of the city, a certificate of such sale.

§ 25. It shall be the duty of the street commissioner, to advertise and sell the lots and parcels of land, certified by the county treasurer as aforesaid, upon which taxes remain due and unpaid, at the same time with lands certified by the comptroller as aforesaid, upon which city taxes remain due and unpaid, including them in the same advertisement, and

setting down the amounts so certified by the county treasurer as unpaid, in a separate column, and make sale of the said lands for the amount of both taxes, for the lowest term of years at which any person will take the same, and pay the said amounts with interest as aforesaid, and the expenses thereon, which expenses shall be charged one half to the account of the city tax, and one half to the account of the county tax.

§ 26. No mortgagee whose mortgage shall have been duly recorded before sale for any tax or assessment shall be divested of his rights in such property, unless six months' notice shall have been given to him by the purchaser, or of those claiming under him, either personally, or if not to be found, then such notice shall be deposited in the post office of said city, directed to his last known place of residence.

§ 27. Within a month after the service of such notice, it shall be the duty of the person serving or causing the same to be served, to file in the street commissioner's office a copy of the notice served, together with the affidavit of some person who shall be certified by the officer before whom said affidavit shall be taken to be a credible person, proving the due service of said notice.

§ 28. The owner, mortgagee, occupant, or any other person interested in such land, may at any time within two years after the sale for either tax or assessment, redeem the said land by paying to the said street commissioner, for the use of said purchaser, the said purchase money, together with any other tax or assessment which the said purchaser may have paid, chargeable on said land, and which he is hereby authorized to do, provided a notice thereof has been filed in the street commissioner's office, with fifteen per cent per annum in addition thereto, and the certificate of the street commissioner, stating the payment and showing what land such payment is intended to redeem, shall be evidence of such redemption. The mortgagee shall have power to redeem at any time until after the expiration of the six months specified in the twenty-eighth section of this title.

§ 29. Upon the receipt of such moneys by the street commissioner, he shall cause the same to be refunded to the purchaser, his legal representatives or assigns, and all proceedings in relation to said sale shall cease: but if said moneys shall not be paid according to the exigency of said notice, the street commissioner shall proceed to execute a conveyance of the property so sold as hereinafter provided.

§ 30. Whenever the street commissioner shall receive satisfactory information that the land so sold belongs to an idiot or insane person, for whose estate no committee shall have

been appointed, or to an infant having no guardian, he shall not execute a conveyance of their lands until at least six months after he shall have legal evidence that such disability has been removed, or a committee or guardian of their estate has been appointed. And until the expiration of said six months such committee or guardian may redeem such land in the manner hereinbefore provided.

§ 31. The street commissioner shall from time to time, as the common council shall direct, make a return to the collector of taxes and assessments, of the taxes and assessments paid to him, and the collector shall note such payment on the original assessment roll, or copy thereof in his office, and the memorandum of payment or any assessment roll or copy thereof in the said street commissioner's office, and the memorandum of payment on any assessment roll or copy thereof in the office of such collector, shall be sufficient evidence of such payment. The street commissioner shall also forthwith, upon receiving the same, render to the treasurers of the city and county respectively, an account of the proceeds of any sale, and of any money received or collected by him that may be payable to either of them, and at the same time pay over the said money received by him.

§ 32. The street commissioner where the land sold shall not have been redeemed as by this act provided, shall execute to the purchaser or his assigns, a proper conveyance of lands so sold by him, which shall contain a brief statement of the proceedings had for the sale of said lands, and shall be evidence that such sale was regularly made according to the provisions of this act. He shall also forthwith deliver a memorandum of such conveyance to the collector, who shall note the same on the assessment rolls and abstract kept in his office.

TITLE VI.

OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 1. There shall be elected in the city of Williamsburgh, at the first charter election to be held under this act, and every three years thereafter, a justice of the peace, who shall be denominated the "police justice," and shall hold his office for three years from the first day of January next after his election, and until a successor shall be elected and qualified.

§ 2. The said police justice shall not have nor exercise any civil jurisdiction, except in actions or proceedings which may be brought for a violation of any of the ordinances, by-laws or regulations of the city of Williamsburgh, or of the board of health of said city, where the penalty shall not exceed two hundred and fifty dollars, in all of which cases the said police

justice, and each of the justices of the peace of said city shall have, possess and exercise jurisdiction to hear, try and determine the same.

§ 3. The said police justice shall have the same powers and jurisdiction in criminal cases and proceedings, and in cases of vagrancy, and of disorderly persons that justices of the peace of the town of Williamsburgh now have by law, which may hereafter be conferred on justices of the peace of the towns of this state, and shall be subject to the same duties and liabilities in such cases and proceedings as the justices of the peace of the several towns of this state. He shall have jurisdiction to hear all complaints, and to conduct all examinations in criminal cases, in the city of Williamsburgh, and to try all criminal cases as a court of special sessions that may now by law be tried by a justice of the peace, or by a court of special sessions in the town of Williamsburgh. He shall also have the same jurisdiction and powers in bastardy cases that are now possessed by the justices of the peace of said town. He shall attend to all complaints of a criminal nature, and for violations of the city ordinances, which may be brought before him; and in case he shall remove from the city, his office shall be vacated, and whenever a vacancy shall occur in said office, either by death, resignation or removal from the city, the same shall be filled by the appointment of some suitable person by the common council. The person so appointed shall possess all the powers, perform all the duties, and be entitled to the same compensation herein conferred and imposed upon, and provided for the said police justice, but shall not hold his appointment beyond the election and qualification of a police justice to be elected to fill such vacancy at the next annual election. In case of the sickness of the said police justice, his absence from the city, or vacancy in his office, the mayor shall possess all his powers, and perform all his duties, and in case of the sickness, or absence from the city, both of the police justice and the mayor, the acting mayor shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties herein conferred and imposed upon the said police justice.

§ 4. The said police justice shall not be entitled to receive for his own use any fees for services performed by him, but shall receive such annual salary as the board of finance shall determine, to be paid quarterly out of the city treasury. He shall keep a book in which he shall enter all business done by him as such police justice, and all fines and costs received by him, and which shall at all times be open to the inspection of the common council, and the comptroller of the city; he shall keep an account of all services performed by him as such justice of the peace, and which now are, or hereafter

may be by law, county charges, and the several items thereof, and shall render the same duly verified quarterly to the board of supervisors of Kings county, which charges shall be audited by the board of supervisors, and the amount audited shall be levied upon the county as other county charges, and paid over to the treasurer of the city of Williamsburgh. He shall, also, render a duplicate of such account to the comptroller of the city, together with an account of all fines and costs received by him, verified in such form as the common council may prescribe, and pay all such fines and costs to the treasurer of the city, before he shall be entitled to receive his salary; he shall not be entitled to receive any compensation for the period he may be absent from the city, and in case his duties are performed during his absence by the mayor or acting mayor, said mayor or acting mayor shall be entitled to, and shall receive during the period of such absence, such compensation as the said police justice would have been entitled to if present and performing the duties of his office.

§ 5. The common council shall provide, at the expense of the city, a suitable room for the use and occupation of said police justice, in the transaction of his business and duties as such justice; and whenever a majority of two-thirds of all the members of the common council shall deem it necessary, the said common council may appoint a clerk to be nominated by said police justice, who shall hold his office during the pleasure of the common council, and shall have power to receive complaints and administer oaths in all proceedings before said police justice, and shall perform such other duties relating to his office as may be prescribed by the common council.

§ 6. The several justices of the peace of the town of Williamsburgh, whose term of office shall not have expired on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, shall be justices of the peace for the city of Williamsburgh until the expiration of the term of office for which they were respectively elected; and at the first annual election to be held next after this act takes effect as a law, and on each and every annual election thereafter, there shall be elected one justice of the peace in and for the city of Williamsburgh, whose term of office shall commence on the first day of January next after his election, and shall continue for four years, who shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of justices of the peace of the towns of this state in civil cases only.

§ 7. No justice of the peace of the city of Williamsburgh, except the police justice, shall, after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, have, possess or exercise any power or jurisdiction in criminal cases or proceed-

ings, or over vagrants, or disorderly persons, nor shall any constable, marshal or other peace officer in said city, be entitled to or receive, after the said first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, any fees upon the arrest conviction or commitment of any vagrant or other person charged with vagrancy.

§ 8. The mayor shall be the chief of the police department of the city. The common council shall designate by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected, the number of policemen to be appointed for each ward. The aldermen of each ward, in conjunction with the mayor, shall thereupon appoint, in writing, so many policemen as may have been thus designated, which appointment shall be filed in the office of the city clerk.

§ 9. It shall be the duty of the policemen to obey such orders as they may from time to time receive from the mayor and from the aldermen of their respective wards regarding their duty, to report to the mayor, all violations of the corporation ordinances with the names and residence of witnesses; to preserve the public peace; to watch and guard the city day and night; to be vigilant for the prevention and discovery of crime and the detection of criminals; to report to the mayor all crimes or offences committed in the city; to arrest all persons in the actual commission of crimes, misdemeanors, breaches of the peace, or violations of corporation ordinances, and all vagrants or disorderly persons: to execute all criminal process issued by the mayor, aldermen, police justice, or by any inferior court of criminal jurisdiction which is now or may hereafter be established by the legislature for the city of Williamsburgh, or that may be issued by any other officer or body authorized to issue criminal process; to report to the mayor, and aldermen of their respective wards, all suspicious persons, houses of ill-fame, receiving shops, pawnbrokers' shops, gaming houses, and all places where idlers, tipplers, gamblers, and other disorderly and suspicious persons congregate; to perform within the ward for which he shall be appointed, such duties in relation to the inspection of streets, pavements and sidewalks, wells and pumps, and public cisterns, and of hacks, cabs, carts and sleds, as the street commissioner or common council may direct; and to perform such other duties from time to time as the common council may prescribe.

§ 10. At any alarm of fire it shall be the duty of the policemen forthwith to proceed to the scene of conflagration, and to be diligent in preserving order and protecting property, and in case of any riot or public disturbance they shall forthwith proceed to the scene of riot and aid in suppressing the same.

§ 11. Two of the aldermen of any ward may suspend any policeman in their ward, and in all such cases they shall, within twenty-four hours thereafter, notify in writing the mayor and the aldermen of the ward to which such policeman belongs, of such suspension, specifying the grounds therefor, and the names of the witnesses to establish the charge. In every case the mayor shall cause written notice to be given to the accused to afford him an opportunity to be heard in his defence. The mayor, and at least two of said aldermen, shall examine witnesses under oath upon the charges and for the defence, and may for cause continue the suspension, remove the party from office or restore him to duty. The mayor shall have power to issue subpoenas, to require the attendance of witnesses on the trial of such cases, and disobedience of such subpoenas shall render the parties liable to the penalties provided by law in courts of record. The testimony shall be reduced to writing, and together with the decision of the mayor and the said aldermen thereon, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the city.

§ 12. The policemen shall receive a per diem compensation for each day they shall be employed on duty, which compensation shall from time to time be regulated and fixed by the board of finance.

§ 13. No person connected with the police department shall be liable to military or jury duty.

§ 14. The mayor shall from time to time detail such policemen as he may deem proper, to act as messengers of the mayor and of the common council, to attend the meetings of that body, and to attend and preserve order in all courts and public assemblies in the city. The aldermen shall detail a sufficient number of policemen within their respective wards to attend the polls on the days of election.

§ 15. No fees or compensation shall be charged or received by any policeman, clerk, or other officer connected with the police department, for any services performed by them as such officers, other than their stated compensation, except in special cases, with the approbation of the mayor. Any officer violating this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be subject to the fines and penalties provided for such offence.

§ 16. All fees and costs heretofore paid by the supervisors of the county of Kings for services rendered for said county by any justice of the peace, or by the constables and marshals of the village of Williamsburgh, shall, when similar services are rendered by the mayor, police justice, or by a policeman, be audited by the board of supervisors of the county, and the

amount audited shall be levied upon the county as other county charges, and paid over to the treasurer of the city of Williamsburgh for the use of the city.

§ 17. The mayor may from time to time appoint in writing, as special constables, so many and such persons as may voluntarily accept such appointment, and the persons so appointed shall, during the period for which they are appointed, possess all the powers and authority in and by this act conferred upon policemen, but shall not be entitled to receive, nor shall they receive any compensation for their services as such special constables.

§ 18. All the provisions of the law in relation to summary proceedings to recover the possession of lands in certain cases, so far as the same are, or can be exercised by the justices of the peace of the town of Williamsburgh, at the date of the passage of this act, are hereby extended to, and may be exercised by the justices of the peace of the city of Williamsburgh.

TITLE VII.

OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 1. The fire department of the city shall consist of one chief engineer, and as many assistant engineers, foremen, hosemen, axemen, and hook-and-ladder-men as shall from time to time be elected by the firemen of said city, and approved by the common council; but the present members of the fire department of the village of Williamsburgh, shall continue to be such without any new appointment under this act.

§ 2. The mayor, and the members of the common council shall be fire-wardens, and they, together with such other fire-wardens as the common council may direct, shall possess such power, and perform such duties as the said common council may from time to time prescribe.

§ 3. The common council shall procure fire engines and other apparatus used for the extinguishment of fire, and provide suitable engine houses, and other places for keeping the same, and have the charge and control thereof. They shall have the power to organize fire, hook-and-ladder, hose, bucket, and axe companies, and to re-organize the present fire department if they think proper.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of the common council to make rules and regulations for the government of the officers and men attached to the said department, and to impose such penalties and fines for a violation thereof, not exceeding one hundred dollars, as the said common council may deem proper; and for incapacity, neglect of duty, or gross misconduct, the said common council may disband any of said companies, sus-

pend or expel individual members thereof, in the manner and with the restrictions hereinbefore provided for the removal of officers of the city government.

§ 5. Every member of said department shall be entitled to the same privileges and exemptions from military or jury service as they are now entitled to by law. Their names shall be registered by the clerk of the city, in a book to be provided for that purpose, and a certificate from said clerk under the corporate seal of the city, of the appointment of any person as a fireman, and of the time thereof, countersigned by the foreman of the company to which such person may belong, shall be competent evidence to show that such person is a fireman, and at the time of such countersigning was actually serving as such.

§ 6. All fines and forfeitures accruing within the said city, under the laws of this state relative to the extinguishment of or proceedings at fires shall be applied to the fire department fund of said city, for the benefit of indigent and disabled firemen, and the families of deceased firemen.

§ 7. Any member of the fire department who shall, while in the performance of his duty, be maimed or injured, so as to be rendered thereafter unable to perform the duties of a fireman, shall receive a certificate of discharge, which shall entitle him to all the privileges of a fireman whose time has been regularly served.

§ 8. The common council shall pass such ordinances as it may deem proper, for regulating the storage of gunpowder and other articles of a combustible nature, and fix the penalty for any violation of the same. All penalties recovered under such ordinances shall be for the benefit of the fire department, and shall be paid over to the officers authorised to receive the same.

§ 9. When a building shall be on fire in said city, the mayor, with the advice of the chief engineer, or in his absence under the advice of two of the assistant engineers, and with the concurrence of four members of the common council, or in the absence of the mayor, six of the common council with the like advice, may order such building or any adjoining building to be pulled down or otherwise destroyed, if they shall deem it necessary to stop the progress of the conflagration.

§ 10. The common council may from time to time, by ordinance, designate one or more districts in said city of such extent, metes and bounds as they may deem proper within which all buildings to be erected after the expiration of three calendar months from the passage of such ordinance, shall be built of brick or stone, or materials other than wood, and in such manner as they may determine and specify in such ordinance.

Said ordinance shall be published in the corporation newspapers at least once a week for the space of three calendar months after the same shall have been passed, and before it shall take effect as a law.

§ 11. Any building erected in any such district previous to the designation thereof, and covered with boards or shingles, may be repaired or new roofed with boards or shingles; and all steeples, cupolas, and spires of churches and other public buildings, and all privies not exceeding ten feet square, and lime houses and sheds the height of which shall not exceed twelve feet, may be built of wood and boards and covered with boards or shingles.

§ 12. If any building shall be erected or roofed contrary to this act or to the provisions of any such ordinance, the owner or owners thereof shall for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to be recovered with costs of suit in any court or record within this state, by the city for the use of the fire department of the said city, and every such building erected or roofed contrary to this act or to the provisions of such ordinance shall be decreed a common nuisance, and the owner or occupant thereof may be indicted therefor, and on conviction shall be punished by fine or imprisonment as the court having cognizance thereof may deem proper, and such court shall also order and cause such nuisance to be abated or removed.

TITLE VIII.

OF COMMISSIONERS OF EXCISE.

SEC. 1. There shall be elected in each ward of the city, at the first election of city officers under this act, one commissioner of excise; and there shall be elected every year thereafter, at the annual election of city officers, such commissioner in the ward, where the term of office hereinafter fixed shall expire, and in that only. The several commissioners so elected shall together constitute a board of excise.

§ 2. The commissioners of excise first elected, shall, at the first meeting of the common council thereafter, be divided by the mayor by lot into three classes. The first of said classes shall hold office for one year, the second for two years, and the third for three years; but the several commissioners of excise elected after the first election of city officers under this act, shall respectively hold office for the term of three years.

§ 3. The common council shall by ordinance fix the penalty which shall be paid by every person so elected, who shall neglect or refuse to qualify and serve as a commissioner of excise, and shall enforce the collection of the same, in the manner herein provided for collecting other penalties for the violation

of city ordinances; but the penalty to be fixed by said common council shall not exceed fifty dollars.

§ 4. The commissioners of excise shall meet on the third Tuesday of January in each year at the city hall, and shall elect one of their number president, and may adjourn from time to time as they may think proper for the transaction of business. The city clerk shall be clerk of the board of excise, and shall keep the book of minutes required by law, which books shall at all times be open for inspection in the office of the said city clerk.

§ 5. A majority of said commissioners shall be competent to execute the powers vested in said board. They shall grant licenses to tavern keepers and grocers, who are residents of the city of Williamsburgh, to sell wines and liquors, in the cases and in the manner, but with the qualifications and restrictions, authorised by law, and may revoke the same at pleasure. They shall also fix the sum to be paid for licenses, which shall not be less than ten nor more than fifty dollars.

§ 6. Such licenses shall be signed by the commissioners granting the same, and shall be countersigned by the city clerk. They shall not be delivered until the sums to be paid therefor, and the fees accruing thereon, are paid to said clerk, and the bond required by law is duly executed and approved by the board of excise, and when issued shall be in force, unless revoked, until the third Tuesday of January in the following year. Immediately upon the receipt of such sums and fees by said clerk, he shall pay them over to the county treasurer, and render an account thereof to the comptroller.

§ 7. The commissioners of excise shall be entitled to receive two dollars a day for their services, in lieu of all fees and perquisites whatever, but the pay of no member shall exceed ten dollars in any one year, which, together with the necessary expenses of blank forms of license and advertising, shall be paid by the county treasurer on certificate of the city clerk.

§ 8. The bonds to be taken on granting licenses shall be similar to those prescribed in like cases in the ninth title of the twentieth chapter of the first part of the revised statutes, and shall be disposed of and prosecuted in the manner therein directed.

TITLE IX.

OF THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 1. At the first annual election of city officers to be held under this act, and at every annual election thereafter, there

shall be elected in each ward of said city, four financial officers, who shall be freeholders in the city and residents of the ward in which they are respectively elected, and who shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are elected and qualified. The said financial officers, together with the mayor and common council, shall constitute and be known as the board of finance of the city of Williamsburgh.

§ 1. Thirteen of the members of said board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The mayor or acting mayor, shall preside when present at the meetings of the board, and the city clerk shall be clerk of said board. In case of the absence of said mayor, acting mayor, or clerk, it shall be lawful for said board to appoint a president pro tem., or clerk pro tem., or both if necessary, out of their number, to discharge the proper duties belonging to the president or clerk at such meeting.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of the board of finance on or before the first Monday of August in each year, to fix, determine and direct the amount of moneys which shall be raised to defray the contingent and all other expenses of said city for the current year, including any interest due or to become due on the public debt of said city, as well as any instalments which may become due thereon, together with such sums as may at any time be required by law to pay into the sinking fund of the city; and for that purpose they shall meet on the first Tuesday of March, and as often thereafter as may be necessary. The clerk shall lay before said board the annual statement of the mayor, in and by this act directed to be presented to the common council, together with the action of the common council thereon. The said board after having fixed and determined the amount to be raised as aforesaid, shall cause a statement thereof to be made, signed by the mayor or presiding officer of said board, and attested by the clerk, and file the same in the office of the city clerk. Such statement may be altered and amended by said board of finance from time to time, before the first Monday of August, but not after that date. It shall also be the duty of said board to fix and determine the amount of salaries or compensation which shall be paid to the several officers of said city, (except to the aldermen and members of the board of finance, and such as are otherwise fixed by this act.) for their services as such officers. The salaries of officers shall be fixed before their election or appointment; and it shall be the duty of the board of finance of the village of Williamsburgh, to meet on or before the first Monday of October, 1851, and fix the amount of salaries to be paid to the several officers first elected under this act.

§ 4. The common council shall have power in each year to

raise by tax such sums as shall be fixed and determined by the board of finance in manner aforesaid, and to adopt all legal and requisite measures for levying and collecting the same.

§ 5. The common council are hereby authorised and empowered from time to time in each year, in advance of the collection of taxes authorised to be raised as aforesaid, to borrow such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the current city expenses, as the same may accrue or become payable, and for that purpose may issue the bonds of the city, redeemable at any time or times to be specified in such bonds not exceeding one year from the date thereof: Provided, however, that the sum or sums so borrowed shall not in the aggregate exceed two-thirds of the whole amount which shall have been directed by the board of finance to be raised for the city expenses of the current year.

§ 6. Whenever the common council shall borrow any money pursuant to the provisions of the last preceding section, so much of the moneys which shall have been or shall be directed to be raised by tax for city expenses, as shall be necessary to pay off the amount so borrowed, with the interest thereon, shall become pledged for the faithful payment thereof, and when collected shall be paid to and held by the treasurer as a special fund, to be paid out only upon warrant drawn against such fund, in payment of any sum or sums so borrowed as aforesaid with interest thereon.

§ 7. The common council may, from time to time, borrow upon the corporate bonds of the city, for the purpose of making such permanent improvements as would be a general charge or tax upon the city, such sum or sums of money as may be authorised by the board of finance in the manner hereinafter directed, but the aggregate amount of all the sums so borrowed, in any one year, shall not exceed the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars.

§ 8. Before the board of finance shall be convened for the purpose of authorising such loan, the common council shall, by a vote of a majority of all the members thereof, to be ascertained by taking and recording the ayes and noes, pass a resolution setting forth the sum proposed to be borrowed, and the specific purposes to which the same shall be applied. The resolution shall be certified by the clerk, and presented to the mayor; if he approve of the same, or if he do not return it with his objections within the time hereinafter mentioned, he shall cause a notice to be served upon each member of the board of finance, either personally, or by leaving the same at his residence, setting forth the amount of the proposed loan, and the object or objects thereof, and fixing the time and place of meeting of said board for the purpose of de-

clerk, deputy or assistant, of such officer, shall be deemed a felony, punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both.

§ 5. Every ordinance, resolution, or by-law of the common council, may be read in evidence in all courts and legal proceedings from the volume of ordinances published, or to be published, by order of said common council, without any other proof of the passage or publication thereof, but such publication shall only be presumptive evidence that the same has been duly published in the corporation newspaper as required by this act.

§ 6. Any civil or criminal process, attachment or execution, may be served or levied upon any person or property, on board of any vessel, which at the time of such service or levy shall be attached or fastened to any wharf, pier, bulkhead, or landing place in said city, or lying so near thereto that a person can step from the same upon such vessel, or shall be fastened to any other vessel or vessels, which shall be so attached or lying to any such wharf, pier, bulkhead, or landing place, by any officer authorized to serve process in said city of Williamsburgh.

§ 7. When a penalty is created or authorized to be created by this act, and no particular provision is herein made as to the application thereof when recovered, such penalty shall, when so recovered, be paid into the city treasury for the use of the city.

§ 8. The existing ordinances, by-laws, and regulations of the trustees of the village of Williamsburgh, shall be and continue in full force and effect, until the same shall be repealed by the common council.

§ 9. No alderman shall have power to discharge from arrest or imprisonment, any person arrested or imprisoned by any other alderman, policeman, or constable.

§ 10. The office of the city clerk is hereby declared a town clerk's office, for the purpose of depositing and filing therein all books and papers required by law to be filed in a town clerk's office in said city, and with regard to such books and papers, the city clerk shall possess the powers and perform the duties of a town clerk.

§ 11. All property and rights of property, and all estate, real and personal, vested in or belonging to or held in trust by the trustees of the village of Williamsburgh, at the time this act shall take effect as a law, shall be and are hereby vested in the city of Williamsburgh, and the said corporation by its corporate name of the "City of Williamsburgh," shall succeed to all the rights and liabilities of said corporation, under the name of the "Trustees of the village of Williamsburgh;" and all such rights or liabilities may be enforced by

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